

New numbers on SF HIV cases
Health department says city has seen
small shift toward gay, bi men of color.
page 17

No end to the honeymoon
Mayor Gavin Newsom is a hit
at Equality California reception.
page 12



Ballet's best: Mr. B
San Francisco Ballet's
Balanchine fest begins.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Trans panic defense already evident in Araujo murder trial

by Zak Szymanski

Sexual deception" was the theme of defense attorney Tony Serra's statements during jury selection for the trial of the three men accused of killing transgender teenager Gwen Araujo.

Serra, famous for representing high-profile defendants, is the attorney for defendant Jason Cazares, 24, who along with Michael Magidson, 23, and Jose Merel, 24, faces first-degree murder charges with a hate crime enhancement for the brutal death of Araujo.



Gwen Araujo

Araujo was born as a male named Edward but presented and lived as female. She was just 17 years old when she was killed at a house party in the East Bay city of Newark, on October 3, 2002.

According to the prosecution's lead witness Jaron Nabors, 20, who accepted a plea-bargain in exchange for his testimony against his friends, Araujo had sex with both Merel and Magidson in the fall of 2002. At the party on October 3, said Nabors during the preliminary hearing last year, it was determined that Araujo was biologically male, and it was then that she was allegedly beaten over a period of two hours, hit in the head with a shovel, and hung from the garage, after which the suspects drove her body to a remote campground and buried it in a shallow grave.

Despite the reported lengthy time span of the crime and series of conversations where presumably each of the suspects had a chance to contemplate his actions, Serra and other defense attorneys have argued that Araujo's slaying was a "crime of passion."

And if Serra's questioning thus far is any indication, it looks like attorneys for the suspects will rely on a "trans-panic" defense, even though hate crime laws are supposed to render such tactics useless.

Potential jurors have been assembled at Alameda County Superior Court in Hayward since March 15,
page 17 ►

Senate committee holds its third hearing on gay marriage amendment

by Bob Roeher

The Senate's third hearing on the so-called threat of gay marriage, held Tuesday, March 23, was a strange mix of acrimony and ennui. In the end, it was unclear whether any movement had been made in any direction, or when the committee might again take up the issue.

"The traditional institution of marriage is not about discrimination – it is about children," asserted Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas), chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution.

"Activist judges," in finding that banning gay couples from marrying discriminates against them, are "accusing ordinary Americans of prejudice, while abolishing American traditions by judicial fiat," he said.

"The only way to save laws deemed 'unconstitutional' by activist judges is a constitutional amendment," he added.

Cornyn said these activists "accuse others of writing discrimination into the Constitution, yet they are the ones writing the Amer-



Representatives John Lewis and Barney Frank (backs to camera) testify before Senators John Cornyn, Dianne Feinstein, Ted Kennedy, and Dick Durbin.

ican people out of our constitutional democracy."

Senator Dianne Feinstein (California), the ranking Democrat on the committee, called

the Federal Marriage Amendment "ill-timed and ill-advised. ... It would, if enacted, become the first amendment to limit rights"
page 16 ►

Court unlikely to void gay nuptials, experts say

by Matthew S. Bajko

Even if the city fails to convince the state Supreme Court that San Francisco officials had a right to issue marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples, legal experts suggest the state's top court may not move to nullify those marriages already performed.

While the case centers around the legal question of whether Mayor Gavin Newsom acted lawfully in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, it appears the court will

not address whether those licenses are valid, several lawyers interviewed by the *Bay Area Reporter* said this week.

"It is not a foregone conclusion that if he acted out of his authority they are null and void," said Jay Kuo, co-chair of the San Francisco Bar Association's subcommittee on sexual orientation issues and a constitutional lawyer with Kecker and Van Nest.

Tamara Lange, with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, said most people in the legal community would be surprised if the justices do address the

question of the licenses' validity when they issue their ruling later this summer.

"When you look at the court's order and look at the request by the attorney general and antigay groups, it's clear the court has restricted the scope of briefing and has said nothing about having the city brief on the validity of the existing marriages between same-sex couples," said Lange.

When the court issued its order on March 11, it directed city officials to immediately halt the gay nuptials while the cases are pending before the court. But the court also restricted its scope in the case, limiting briefs it asked the parties to file to the narrow legal question of whether Newsom exceeded or acted outside his authority when he decided not to enforce the limitations on marriage found in state statutes.

At the same time, the court invited the city or another party to file a separate action in
page 15 ►



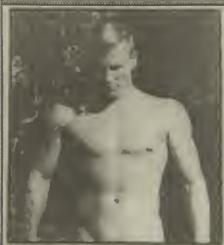
Out against the war

Among the hundreds of clever signs carried by the tens of thousands of anti-war marchers Saturday, March 20 one of the best was from Sergio Benavides, left, walking with the Marriage Equality California contingent. Massive demonstrations took place in cities around the world on the one-year anniversary of the war with Iraq.

INSIDE

BAR Talk	40
Classifieds	19
Lavender Tube	34
Lesbian Notions	8
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	38
Obituaries	17
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	26
Out & About	36
Past Out	10
Personals	46
Sports Complex	18

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Condoms shredded as
activists protest N-9

by Ed Walsh

Activists turned up the heat this week on manufacturers that produce condoms lubricated with the spermicide nonoxonyl-9.

To illustrate their point, an estimated 750,000 N-9 condoms were shredded at a press conference in Oakland on Monday, March 22. It was held at Mayer Laboratories, one of the condom makers that voluntarily agreed to stop making N-9 condoms. Company President David Mayer explained that an additional 250,000 N-9 condoms were destroyed at his factory in Japan the same day, making for a total of 1 million.

Mayer discontinued producing products with N-9 in September 2002, following World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports documenting the risk of N-9. The shredded condoms were from Mayer Labs' inventory and returns from the marketplace.

Ironically, N-9 was once touted as an HIV prophylactic and added to condoms and lubricants after initial tests showed that it killed the virus. Subsequent tests on human subjects, however, showed that it actually had the opposite effect because it stripped away the protective epithelial cells in the lining of the rectum and vagina, leaving its users more vulnerable to HIV and infection. Although it is effective in its contraceptive form, the WHO concluded in its exhaustive N-9 report that when added to condoms, N-9 provided no additional contraceptive benefit and "should not be promoted."

In addition to Mayer, Monday's press conference was attended by San Francisco Department of Public Health's STD prevention director, Dr. Jeffrey Klausner; Dean Goishi, director, California AIDS Clearinghouse (LA Gay & Lesbian Center); and Bart Broome, legislative assistant to Assemblyman Paul Koretz, (D-West Hollywood.)

The participants announced a grassroots effort aimed at retailers, manufacturers, health agencies, and the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Broome announced that he has initiated a Web site: StopN9Condoms.com, which he



David Mayer dumps N-9 condoms into a shredder at news conference.

is funding with his own money and with the help of volunteer Web developers. Broome explained that through that site, people can get more information and can e-mail major retailers who sell N-9 condoms and can also e-mail manufacturers that still make N-9 condoms.

The three major manufacturers still making N-9 condoms are Armkel, the producer of Trojans; Ansell, the maker of the LifeStyles brand; and Okamoto Industries, the manufacturer of the Beyond Seven brand. None of the manufacturers returned the *Bay Area Reporter's* calls or e-mails by press time. In the past, manufacturers have defended adding N-9 to condoms by arguing that it provides an additional contraceptive benefit. However, when pressed, they could provide no evidence that it does.

Following the first studies that documented the dangers of N-9, most health organizations pulled them from distribution. Activists are now calling for health agencies to also stop doing business with companies that produce N-9 condoms.

Goishi announced that the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center would stop doing business with any manufacturer that continues to produce N-9 products. He asked other health agencies to do the same.

Goishi's plea already had one major impact. Chris Owen, the associate program director of the Stop AIDS Project, told the *B.A.R.* that he would ask that his organization stop purchasing condoms from any manufacturer that makes N-9 condoms. Owen noted that the Stop AIDS Project was one of the first organizations in the Bay Area to stop distributing N-9 condoms. The Stop AIDS Project currently buys some non-N-9 condoms under the LifeStyles and Beyond Seven brands. Owen estimated that his organization currently spends at least a half million dollars each year on condoms, making it one of the biggest distributors of free condoms in the country.

Klausner told the *B.A.R.* that he would ask that DPH's condom supplier no longer furnish DPH with condoms made by manufacturers that also produce an N-9 variety.

Reg Norton, a spokesman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, told the *B.A.R.* that SFAF is considering a similar move.

The anti-N-9 activists are also critical of the FDA, which has allowed N-9 condoms to be sold without any evidence of effectiveness or safety. FDA spokeswoman Mary Ellen Taylor told the *B.A.R.* that her agency is addressing those concerns with a proposal that calls for new labeling requirements. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay marriage means more discrimination for SoCal man

by Zak Szymanski

The aftermath of San Francisco's historic gay weddings has not been all roses, particularly for couples who live outside of the Bay Area.

On Valentine's Day, Southern California resident Ron Fanelle, 37, married his long-term partner Randy Serak, 36, at San Francisco City Hall. The middle school teacher then returned home, and was pleased when his supportive co-workers at the Pleasant Valley School District in Ventura County announced his marriage at a staff meeting.

Then the nightmare began. Fanelle says that while he has always kept his sexual orientation private, another staff member outed him to students in March. Students began to ask questions, he said, and he dealt with them openly but briefly, hoping to put

the matter to rest.

"In my sixth grade class there were some comments from my students. There was some bigotry, and some silliness, but I tried to steer the conversations back to the Magna Carta and other things we were working on," Fanelle told the Bay Area Reporter in a telephone interview this week.

Soon afterward, a parent complained to the school board that Fanelle had discussed his sexual orientation in his classroom, and at a school board meeting that followed, one parent stood up and "made a bunch of wild accusations, that I was violating the law by getting married, and that I was bringing the homosexual agenda into the classroom," said Fanelle, who also said that he believes a school board member discussed his sexuality with a local Boy Scout troop.

The backlash has included parents removing their kids from

Fanelle's classroom, he said. He has lodged a complaint against those he believes outed him, not because he is ashamed of his sexuality, but because his intention was always to keep the issue from erupting. Last week, a private investigator hired by the district appeared at his home, "and it became clear to me that I was being sized up. What he was trying to figure out, I have no idea."

Fanelle said he has asked why he is being investigated — particularly when "I'm the one who filed the complaint" — but school district answers have been elusive.

Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent Dr. Thomas Dase confirmed that there is an investigation, but he told the B.A.R. that Fanelle's sexuality and gay marriage are not the targets of the inquiry.

"He did announce to the staff that he had gone to San Francisco

page 19 ►



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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Marriage lecture tonight

"Same-sex marriage: A queer and feminist perspective" is the topic of a public lecture taking place tonight (Thursday, March 25) at New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission Street (at 15th Street) at 7 p.m. Panelists will include longtime queer social justice activist Tommi Avicolli Mecca and lesbian poet and revolutionary educator Merle Woo. The discussion will center on whether legalizing LGBT wedlock threatens the traditional family — and if so, is that a bad idea? The meeting is free. A springtime supper will be served at 6:15 p.m. for a \$6.50 donation. For more information, call (415) 864-1278 or e-mail bafsprw@igc.org.

Dignity/SF event Saturday

Dignity/San Francisco, the local chapter of the national organization that advocates on behalf of LGBT Catholics, will hold its annual Pax Et Bonum dinner and awards program Saturday, March 27 at the Crowne Plaza Union Square Hotel, 480 Sutter Street. This year's honorees include Call to Action, a Catholic movement working for justice within the Catholic Church and society; Fr. Louis Vitale, a Franciscan priest who serves at St. Boniface Parish in the Tenderloin; and Chris Daley, co-director of the Transgender Law Center. Members of Dignity/SF who will be honored include Victoria Valencia and Paul Ziller. Tickets start at \$50 per person.

There will be a no-host cocktail reception at 7 p.m., followed by the dinner and program at 8. For more information, call (415) 681-2491.

'Old Dyke' awards Sunday

Winners of the "Pat Bond Old Dyke Memorial Awards" will be honored Sunday, March 28 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, in Berkeley. A reception takes place from 3:30-4:30 p.m., followed by the awards ceremony from 4:45-6:30 p.m. Awards are presented biennially to lesbians over 60 who have made significant contributions to the community but have not been recognized for their efforts.

This year's winners are: Avotcja, a performing musician, author, and teacher; Cathy Cade, a photographer; Judy Freespirit, an antiwar and disability rights activist; Barbara Jue, a co-founder of Women Over Fifty and their Friends; Ina May Murri and Stella Lopez-Armiko, a combined East Bay force in several organizations, including Lavender Seniors; and Marge Nelson, a grassroots activist, therapist, scholar, author, and teacher.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, will give opening remarks. Ronnie Gilbert, a folksinger formerly of the Weavers, will provide entertainment.

The awards are named after Pat Bond, a playwright, monologist, and comedienne who died in 1990.

Tickets to Sunday's event start at \$50 per person, though organizers said that no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For

more information, visit www.patbondaward.com.

City College marriage forum

A diverse panel will address the same-sex marriage issue at a free forum Tuesday, March 30 in the Diego Rivera Theater on the City College campus, 50 Phelan Avenue, in San Francisco. Presented by the college's Queer Alliance, the debate will feature six individuals who will wrestle with the question: Should same-sex marriage be legal? Scheduled panelists include Dolores Meehan and Frances Peterson from Your Catholic Voice; Neil Simms from the Human Rights Campaign; Molly McKay from Marriage Equality California; Tommi Avicolli Mecca, a progressive activist; and Ora Prochovnick, an attorney speaking on behalf of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Michelle Gorthy, debate coach at City College, will moderate the forum, which runs from 7-9 p.m.

Lambda Legal event

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is hosting its annual "Lambda at the Legion" fundraiser Thursday, April 1 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Legion of Honor, 34th Avenue and Clement Street in Lincoln Park. Featured guests will be Daniel Kline, who could not get a job transfer after his partner moved to another city, and Matthew Cusick, the HIV-positive gymnast fired by Cirque du Soleil. Ticket prices start at \$200 per person. For more information, call (415) 677-8688. ▼

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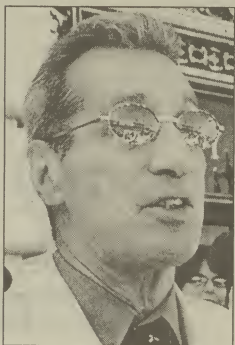
Politicos ask *Chronicle* to reconsider ousted journalists

by Cynthia Laird

Openly gay Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Bevan Dufty on March 18 asked the *San Francisco Chronicle* to reconsider its decision to prohibit two lesbian staffers from covering the same-sex marriage story because they got married.

In a March 12 memo sent to the newspaper's staff, *Chronicle* executive editor Phil Bronstein said that veteran City Hall reporter Rachel Gordon and photographer Liz Mangelsdorf were taken off the gay marriage story after they became one of the thousands of couples to receive a marriage license. Bronstein's memo noted that both women disagreed with the paper's decision. The underlying reason for the decision, Bronstein said in an e-mail to the *Bay Area Reporter* last week, was that Gordon and Mangelsdorf had participated in a news event they were covering.

At Thursday's news conference, Ammiano praised the *Chronicle's* coverage of the LGBT community,



Supervisor Tom Ammiano

but said, "the removal of highly esteemed journalists from coverage is impugning standards."

"Just because someone is openly queer doesn't mean they're not impartial," he added.

Ammiano also called the *Chronicle's* decision "troubling" and requested the paper have an independent review of the situation.

Dufty said he too was bothered by the paper's decision.

Michael Goldstein, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, called the situation "problematic," while Rick Kowalewski, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club said that Gordon is an "outstanding" reporter who shows no bias in her articles.

Robert Haaland, former Milk Club president, talked of rights in the workplace. "What this will do is have a chilling effect on people's willingness to come out," he said. "That's the most troubling aspect of this."

The *Chronicle's* reader representative, Dick Rogers, wrote a column about the situation Monday, in which he reiterated what he told the *B.A.R.* last week: that "many readers could doubt that the journalists could retain a healthy skepticism" if Gordon and Mangelsdorf continued to cover the story. Rogers wrote that Gordon would continue to cover the mayor and City Hall.

Gordon and Mangelsdorf have declined to comment on the situation. ▼

GLBT federal employee rights threatened

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. Office of the Special Counsel is the latest arena for the right wing to try to roll back gains made by gays and lesbians. The obscure office is the lynchpin for protecting 1.7 million federal employees from discrimination and retaliation.

Scott J. Bloch was confirmed to the position by the Senate and began a five-year term on January 5. He had worked on the Task Force for Faith-based and Community Initiatives at the Department of Justice. Prior to that he had been a research fellow at the Claremont Institute, a vociferously antigay California think tank.

During his confirmation hearing Bloch convinced the senators that he would protect the rights of gay federal employees.

But within a month of Bloch

taking office, the OSC had "removed references to sexual orientation from its basic brochure, its complaint form, a two-page flyer entitled 'Your Rights as a Federal Employee,' and a set of training slides," charged Federal GLOBE on February 12.

The organization is the umbrella group of GLBT employees in the federal government. It called the actions "political pandering to the conservative right" that send "a chilling message" to gay federal employees.

Bloch responded to press inquiries by saying that he was reviewing the non-discrimination policy. He believes his predecessors might have overstepped their authority. He told the *Federal Times* that action such as attending a gay Pride event would be protected, but sexual orientation might not be.

In his interpretation, Bloch is

making a distinction between one's conduct as a gay or lesbian and one's status as a gay or lesbian, the *Federal Times* noted.

page 19 ►

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A bipartisan fight

Equality California, a statewide gay rights lobbying group, announced this week that it's joining with the Log Cabin Republicans to fight the proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in the Golden State. The move comes after LCR announced Monday that it plans to expand airing of its ad against the proposed amendment to Sacramento. (It started airing earlier this month in several other states.) While California is not expected to be one of the so-called battleground states in November's presidential election, Jeff Scott, Log Cabin's Sacramento president, said in a statement that California is at "ground zero" of the battle over marriage equality. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) last month introduced a resolution in the Legislature that would put California on record opposing the FMA.

LCR's latest move is interesting, because until LCR took its gloves off by launching a national ad campaign against the amendment, many in the LGBT community had viewed the group mostly with disdain. Gay Republicans, the saying goes, are an oxymoron. But gay Republicans by and large support marriage rights; and while social conservatives in the party despise them, they are working with moderate party members to stop the FMA.

What LCR and EQCA are doing is pushing the envelope, and separately and together both organizations are trying to get politicians on both sides of the aisle to go on record against the Federal Marriage Amendment. As for EQCA, which traditionally has worked with Democratic legislators to spearhead a variety of bills, including AB205, the new willingness to reach out to gay GOPers doesn't trouble Executive Director Geoffrey Kors. As he told us a few weeks ago, his organization is bipartisan. It does not make endorsements and, right now, the fight is on over same-sex marriage.

At EQCA's annual dinner event last Saturday, Kors took aim at presumed Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, saying it is "unacceptable for our so-called friends to support amending constitutions." In Kerry's case, the Massachusetts senator has offered conditional support for an amendment to his state's Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage, if protections for civil unions and domestic partnerships were included. That makes no sense to us, since Kerry has come out against the FMA and, as his supporters so frequently remind us, voted against the federal Defense

of Marriage Act in 1996 when he was facing re-election to the U.S. Senate.

"Equality is nonpartisan," Kors said last week. The mayor of New Paltz, New York, who performed some same-sex marriages until he was criminally charged, is a member of the Green Party. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom is a Democrat. And several prominent Republicans, such as California Congressman David Dreier, are against amending the U.S. Constitution.

Meanwhile, a Senate subcommittee held yet another hearing on the FMA Tuesday, with proponents offering up a slightly reworded version that in our opinion does nothing to improve it. Several legal experts have noted that the revised version, which merely drops a reference to state or federal law, makes it no more certain that the amendment would allow civil unions or domestic partnerships. Christopher Anders, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, called the change "a desperate political move," crafted after the sponsors realized they did not have even a simple 50 percent majority in Congress, much less the two-thirds needed for passage in both the House and the Senate. "The new proposal would still write discrimination into the Constitution, deny all states the

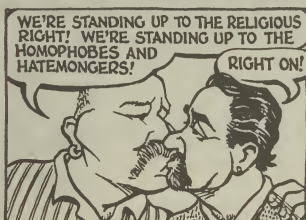
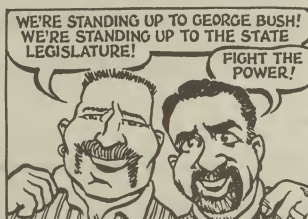
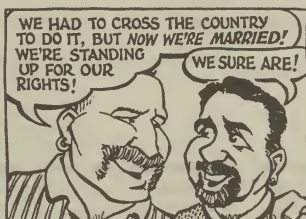
right to decide who can get married in their states, preempt the state constitutions of the 50 states, prohibit such important court decisions as the Vermont civil union decision and the Oregon domestic partnership decision, and potentially jeopardize a wide array of other rights provided to gay and lesbian couples and their children," Anders said.

What's interesting about the Senate hearings, particularly Tuesday's session, is that those in support of the FMA cannot answer the most basic questions about their opposition to same-sex marriage. Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), who testified before the panel, put it best when he asked, "When I go home from today's work and I choose, because of my nature, to associate with another man, how is that a problem for you? How does that hurt you?" Frank did not get a direct response.

We need to demand such responses. Why? Because those pushing the FMA — as well as those supporting efforts to amend various state constitutions — cannot honestly answer that question. Gays and lesbians who wish to marry will not destroy the "institution" of marriage. As those who have gotten married can attest, such recognition has only made their relationships equal with those of heterosexual couples. ▼



Editorial



We did it once, we'll do it again

by Craig Dziedzic

Although the Rotunda area at City Hall is a bit more quiet these days since the California Supreme Court's ruling that temporarily stopped San Francisco from issuing and recording same-sex marriage licenses, one can still recall the abundance of love, excitement, and jubilation from the events of the last several weeks.

Each member of the LGBT community will always recall what he or she was doing on that "Holy Thursday" or "original Thursday" when on February 12, 2004 he or she heard that the city and county of San Francisco was issuing same-sex marriage licenses. The nearly monthlong wedding march will always be remembered as one of the most important achievements for the civil rights movement in America.

As an employee for the city and county of San Francisco who works as the chief tax counsel and director of policy and appeals for Assessor-Recorder Mabel S. Teng, I recall how the first four couples were ushered into Assessor Teng's office and how the staff, friends, and media were waiting in anticipation for the marriage ceremony to begin. The atmosphere seemed very light and joyful; however as Teng began to officiate the marriage ceremony for the first couple, Phyllis Lyon, 79, and Del Martin, 83, the mood turned quiet and somber; and as the couple exchanged their vows, there was not a dried-eye person in that room.

I also recall being deputized as a marriage commissioner by Nancy Alfaro, the county clerk, and how City Hall in the days that followed turned into a Woodstock of love with couples in long lines encircling City Hall. With the uncertainty of a number of pending legal proceedings, I felt as if I was living in a small European country on the eve of World War II with the threat of a Nazi invasion at any moment in the day. In our situation, the Nazi invasion was a court order enjoining the ceremonies. In response to such a threat, I felt that it was my calling to marry as many couples as possible before being told to stop. Others presumably felt the same way, since City Hall had an outpouring of volunteers from both city employees and non-employees, working endlessly late into the evenings and over a three-day weekend (February 14-16) to issue, officiate, and record the same-sex marriage licenses. I must have married more than a hundred couples in practically every area of the Rotunda, including the staircase. Couples traveled from as far away as Florida, Washington, D.C., Berlin, and Ireland. I found that in nine times out of ten, as it had happened with Phyllis and Del, the giddiness of the moment usually turned into a very emotional and teary one as the couple joined hands, looked each other in the eye, and exchanged their wedding vows.

San Francisco should be proud to be the

first city to stand up against discrimination of same-sex marriages. San Francisco should also be proud that it has nurtured and harvested its city elected officials to protect and uphold the constitutionally protected rights of its neighbors. In our case, straight married couples are the heroes who protected the rights of same-sex couples to marry who they please. Hats off to Mayor Newsom who authorized the marriage licenses, as well as Nancy Alfaro who issued the marriage certificates, and

Mabel S. Teng who recorded the certificates, along with City Attorney Dennis Herrera who is defending the city's actions.

It is difficult to predict how the courts are going to rule on the pending legal actions. Already, other cities and counties are following the path of San Francisco. The LGBT community already knows that the community is very vibrant and tenacious in fighting barriers of discrimination. We have fought ongoing battles against racial and sexual discrimination in the 1960s and 1970s as well as ones in the 1980s and 1990s involving HIV and AIDS. Each of our battles against social injustice caused a change in either creating new laws protecting our rights or creating a greater social acceptance throughout the country. We know that there will be battles ahead, and eventually we will win the war because we did it once before, and we will do it again. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Activist damaged activism

We are writing because we feel that last week's B.A.R. coverage of the death of David Pasquarelli failed to provide needed analysis of his very public activism as a AIDS denialist ["AIDS activist David Pasquarelli dies at 36," March 18]. Commitment to ideals must be tempered with rationality and compassion for individuals you claim to be assisting. David failed terribly by these criteria, and this should be remembered in any reflection on David's legacy.

David's activism was informed by an unsupported, irrational, yet unshakeable conviction that HIV is harmless and that anti-HIV drugs invariably do more harm than good. His promotion of this idea almost certainly contributed to early deaths of thousands of HIV-positive people in this country and possibly tens of thousands in the less developed world. South African President Thabo Mbeki embraced ACT UP/SF's denialist rhetoric to justify years of delay in providing needed AIDS treatment and prevention.

David's brand of threatening, abusive, and often violent "activism" was frequently personally directed at AIDS activists, AIDS doctors and researchers, and people with AIDS. He seriously damaged unpaid AIDS activism in San Francisco. His repeated disruptions of meetings and discussions regarding HIV science and policy substantially poisoned the environment for including people with HIV in these forums.

David's style of "activism" reminded us of no one so much as notorious homophobe Fred Phelps, also an idealistic and committed "activist." As gay men with HIV, we will not feel it necessary to pay tribute at Phelps's passing. We similarly feel no such need at David's.

But it is necessary to publicly critique and criticize David's legacy, even at this sad time for those close to David. Young activists are strongly influenced by community admiration and approval. It would be a tragedy if the tributes paid to David at his death encouraged others to imitate the worst mistakes of his life.

Furthermore, even at David's death, the denialist cant continues. David's associates have attributed his death to stress caused by some two months spent in jail, anemia, PCP, meningitis, CMV, etc. In other words, anything but untreated HIV infection and AIDS. The death of fellow HIV-positing AIDS denialist Ronnie Burk one year ago was likewise attributed to anything but untreated HIV infection.

With two of San Francisco's four most outspoken HIV-positive AIDS denialists dead from AIDS within a year, we hope that fewer will embrace the denialists' deadly dogma. We know from our experiences and those of hundreds of friends and loved ones that informed use of anti-HIV drugs improves health and saves lives and that HIV transmission prevention remains critical to slow this epidemic. It is sad that neither David nor Ronnie allowed this reality to enter their world-view before it was too late.

Stephen LeBlanc
Michael Lauro
San Francisco

Expose Bush half-truths

I greatly appreciated Wayne Friday's March 11 and March 18 analyses of John Kerry's important choice of a running mate, and hope the Kerry campaign listens to him ["Kerry-Edwards 'dream ticket' no sure thing," and "Democrats move to unite behind Kerry."]. Nonetheless, I fear that Kerry's campaign may be drowned in a tide of Bush attack advertisements, regardless of whom the senator chooses as his running mate.

Recently the Bush campaign has run several ads that mischaracterize Kerry's positions and record. For instance, one ad says "John Kerry will raise taxes by \$900 billion in his first 100 days." In fact, John Kerry has promised to lower taxes on working families, not raise them. He plans to repeal the Bush tax cut only for families earning \$200,000 or more. Another spot claims, "We can continue to go forward to work to create new jobs." The truth is that America has lost 2.4 million jobs since the Bush recession began in March 2001 (Source: www.jobwatch.org, Economic Policy Institute).

The press has a responsibility to hold politicians accountable when they campaign on baseless claims. I hope Wayne Friday and other reporters around the nation will point out the Bush campaign's distortions, half-truths, and misrepresentations. Without that, no VP choice will help win the election against a well-funded tide of "lies-in-advertising."

Greg James
San Francisco

Passion for Shepard?

I just read that the Mel Gibson film *The Passion of the Christ*'s box office draw totals close to \$200 million, for a movie depicting the last 12 hours of a man being brutalized, beaten, and crucified. I also read one church even bought out an entire movie theater for the entire weekend so that their compassionate members could view this piece of work. I just have to won-

der if all those compassionate people who spent millions of dollars to see Gibson's depiction of the 12-hour brutal beating would spend the same amount of money to see a movie of the last 12 hours of Matthew Shepard's life, who died in similar fashion.

Tom Finan
San Francisco

Gavin for grand marshal

It is ostensibly obvious that the Pride Committee should elect Mayor Gavin Newsom as grand marshal of the Pride Parade ["Pride Committee considers honors for those behind SF gay marriages," March 18]. No other California mayoral Democrat has come into the forefront to allow gay marriages. He has risked his political career within the party and has been lauded by the gay community. There should be no co-grand marshal.

In the December 2003 runoff election, I knew who and what I voted for. Gavin Newsom's actions were not surprising to me. His detractors should be silent for now. The Pride Committee should vote yes to make our brave mayor, Gavin Newsom, grand marshal.

Art Alcantar
San Francisco

Renters beware of Dufty

Bevan Dufty is an opportunist. He switched his vote on Supervisor Chris Daly's anti-demolition law ["Anti-demolition ill in the hands of Newsom and Dufty," March 4 and "Anti-demolition bill vetoed; up to Dufty to override," March 11]. Dufty has been paid off by Angelo Sangiacomo (owner of Trinity Plaza apartments) and other landlords. Wealthy San Francisco landlords largely financed his campaign for supervisor.

Let me refresh everyone's memory: Dufty supported Supervisor Tony Hall's proposition that would have allowed 25 percent of the occupants of a rented apartment building, who agreed, to become a condominium. Fortunately, the proposition was overwhelmingly defeated.

Dufty is seeking favor with Gavin Newsom. He wants Newsom's endorsement when he comes up for re-election in a few years. His voting record always reflects Newsom's views. Come on Dufty, get your face out of Newsom's butt.

When Dufty was campaigning for supervisor, he promised to make the Castro clean and rid the area of panhandlers and other vagrants. Has anyone seen any difference since he took office?

Jim Bishop
San Francisco

Happy bar is closed

I am happy to see My Place closed. I hope other SOMA bar owners (say, for example, the Loading Dock) learn the lesson. My Place lost its patrons not because of the raid by California's Alcohol Beverage Control board. My Place lost its patrons because, instead of fighting the ABC's harassment, it caved in. Management changed the interior of the bar, hired a patrolman to harass patrons, and failed to defend patrons and itself against the ABC. My Place lost its sense of mission, it lost its reason for existing, and it failed to serve its patrons.

Don L. WhRco

Overblown theatrical productions

"I have no objection to concept productions of classical plays," wrote Alec Guinness in his last book, "but it worries me that young people seeing the play for the first time may think that's the only way it should be done."

I recall with immense pleasure Ellis Rabb's stylish modern dress version of *The Merchant of Venice* and William Ball's delightful comedia d'el art *Taming of the Shrew*, both outstanding hits at ACT. In these cases the directors' concepts worked because the production designs and character interpretations were true to the playwright's intent.

Lately in the Bay Area, however, we have had such overblown, distorted, and (in some cases) miscast productions of Ibsen, Shaw, and Maugham plays that I'm sure that if the writers were alive they couldn't get to the restrooms fast enough to throw up.

The most satisfying theatre I have seen so far this year is Palo Alto's TheatreWorks production of Arthur Miller's 1947 *All My Sons* whose director, Kent Nicholson had the good sense not to parody the play's period nor turn the powerful realistic drama into an absurd expressionistic piece of epic proportions.

PS: The comments here should not be construed as criticisms of the B.A.R.'s Richard Dodds, whose review of Ibsen's *Ghosts* in the March 11 issue ["Dark passages"], while kind, suggested that he recognized the problems with the production.

Dean Goodman
San Francisco

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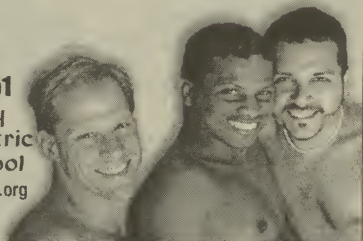
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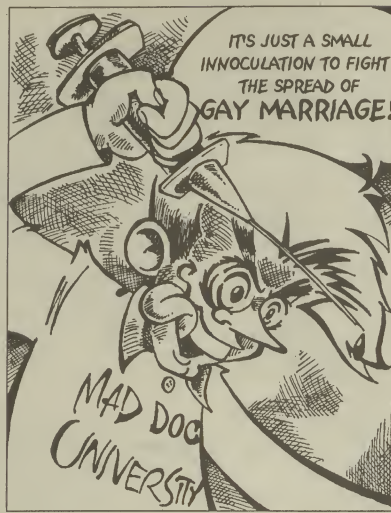
by Paula Martinac

In recent weeks, the word "spread" — commonly associated with infectious disease — has been turning up in the same breath as "gay marriage." Is this just an arbitrary word choice by pundits and politicians? I don't think so.

When gay couples began marrying in Portland, an unfortunate Associated Press headline, "Gay Marriages Spread to Oregon," cropped up in papers around the country. By that time, however, some antigay writers and leaders had already been vaguely linking gay marriage with disease. Stanley Kurtz of the National Review warned of "the spread of gay marriage from Massachusetts to a significant number of states." And Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) — a medical doctor, no less — held a somber press conference in which he predicted "same-sex marriage is likely to spread through all 50 states in the coming years."

Like a subliminal message, the word "spread" will reinforce in the minds of many Americans that being gay equals disease and death. The political far right knows, after all, that a lot of straight people are still pretty fuzzy about homosexuality, reducing it to man-on-man anal sex. And if the disease can't be cured, then an antigay-marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution will at least contain it. "It is becoming increasingly clear that Congress must act," Frist stated, looking as if he'd just announced that terrorists had released smallpox in the Capitol Rotunda.

Of course, the notion of homosexuality as a disease is not new. Doctors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries declared it a perversion of normal sexuality, with some physicians recommending "treatments" like castration, clitorotomy, or lobotomy. Not until 1973 did the American Psychiatric Association remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders, and the Ameri-



can Medical Association took an additional 20 years to expunge all references to "sexual orientation related disorders" from its policies. Unfortunately, these changes came much too late for queers who had either sought out or been forced to undergo medical "cures" like analysis, electroshock, or aversion therapy.

However, a lot of right-wingers still haven't let go of the idea of homosexuality as a "condition." Who can forget our previous Senate majority leader, Trent Lott (R-Mississippi), blithely comparing homo-

sexuality to alcoholism and kleptomania? Of course, the AIDS pandemic has added fuel to the belief that homosexuality is not just immoral and unnatural, it's unhealthy, too. Antigay activists and groups continue to disseminate scary "fact" sheets with titles like "Medical Risks of Homosexuality," detailing the host of horrific things that befall men who deliberately choose to be gay — most notably HIV and other STDs, but also torn rectums, chronic liver disease, and a decreased life expectancy. (They never address lesbian health, by the way.) Now concerned Americans warn that marriage of gay couples, if left unchecked, will take hold from coast to coast.

In a way, the predictions of the right are coming true — the drive for equal marriage rights is

"spreading" like crazy, because the issue has ignited lesbian and gay activism like nothing since the advent of AIDS. Why? In part, marriage activism appeals to our community precisely because we've endured more than 20 years of a ravaging disease that deprived us of friends, family members, and lovers. Many of us have witnessed firsthand what happens when "surviving partner" does not carry the social or legal weight of "widow."

In addition, although we're still battling AIDS, we've emerged from a very dark period of our communal history with something that looks a lot like hope for the future. Indeed, that's much of what marriage signi-

fies in our culture — people in love looking forward to a future together. While AIDS activism was all about fighting for life, then, marriage activism is about fighting for love. As Mark Leno, a gay member of the California Assembly, recently put it, "For the first time we're talking about our lives not in terms of sex or disease, but in how we love and how we live our lives."

But there's also a big difference in the current wave of in-your-face queer activism: this time we've succeeded in bringing on-board powerful straight allies, who realize that denying marriage to same-sex couples amounts to social and economic discrimination. Indeed, without city and county officials challenging unfair state marriage laws, there wouldn't be thousands of married same-sex couples in various cities and towns across the country.

Talking to and engaging the support of straight people who reject the "disease and death" model of homosexuality will be even more vital to this movement in coming months. With their help, we can get out the message that there is an epidemic threatening this country — it's called homophobia. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.

Garden show winners



Sean Stout, Joe Banks, and James Pettigrew celebrate winning the Silver and American Horticultural Society Environmental awards at the 19th annual San Francisco Flower and Garden Show March 18 at the Cow Palace. "ImaginEight" was the name of the winning design, which created a modern garden with rustic charm. Banks is the co-owner of the Eagle and Hole in the Wall bars, and did welding and sculpture work for the project under the name of his new venture, Black Wolf Metalcraft. Stout and Pettigrew are life partners and own Organic Mechanics landscaping business; they met at the Hole in the Wall.

POLITICS

A look at Mayor Newsom

by Wayne Friday

Last fall when the *Bay Area Reporter* was in the process of deciding who it would endorse as the next mayor of San Francisco, Bob Ross, our late publisher, told me that, despite having a personal friendship with Treasurer **Susan Leal**, he had decided that the paper should endorse Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** for mayor and related several reasons for his decision. Mr. Ross and I often disagreed on political candidates and while the paper's editorial page endorsed one candidate, I often used my column to endorse a different one; that was an understanding that Bob Ross and I had since starting this column more than 25 years ago. When I later decided that Newsom was also my choice for mayor it came after carefully considering all of the candidates, whom I knew, and two that I particularly admired, **Susan Leal** and **Tom Ammiano**, both of whom were also well qualified to replace the termed-out **Willie Brown**. I simply felt that the young Newsom, in his few years on the board, had shown a rare combination of political courage, personal integrity, broad vision, dedication, and charisma that I felt would make him a leader for all San Franciscans, and particularly for members of the LGBT community. In the two plus months that he has been

mayor, Newsom has exceeded my admittedly high expectations; I'm particularly proud that the B.A.R. decided early in his campaign to endorse his candidacy. Early in his career, Newsom demonstrated leadership by spearheading passage of bond issues to improve Muni and our city parks. Then he exposed San Francisco's failed homeless policy by pointing out that, as a city, we were enabling over a thousand people to die on our streets. Newsom did more than lament the problem—he came up with an effective, multi-year, comprehensive solution, one that the public overwhelmingly supported because it was the right thing to do.

Newsom has appointed **Angela Alioto** to head up a task force to develop a 10-year plan to get San Francisco federal funds to create the kind of wraparound service—housing, treatment, counseling, job training—that will help end the tragic abandonment of the most vulnerable on our streets. Alioto was an inspired choice for this task and you can count on her delivering an outstanding and workable plan. For his stance on homelessness, his political opponents, especially those who make a comfortable living from maintaining the status quo for the homeless, predictably, demonized Newsom.

As mayor, Newsom surprised some—not me, however—by taking top city officials out to the Bay View Hunters Point District to ask why so many crimes remain unsolved there, why the neighborhood's playgrounds are not maintained, and why trash is allowed to accumulate for months on end.

Newsom made it clear to all that this had to change. Newsom appointed a woman, **Joanne Hayes White** as fire chief—a first—and named another, **Heather Fong**, as acting chief of police, let-



Mayor Gavin Newsom

ting her know that she was a candidate for the job, assuring her that her skills and experience would be evaluated alongside qualified individuals from other police departments. As a longtime member of the Police Commission, I know this took courage and that it was badly needed.

All of Newsom's other laudable examples of leadership were, in my opinion, dwarfed by his authorizing same-sex marriages on February 12. Once again, Newsom took a political risk—this mayor is one of the brightest and most appealing of young Democrats—and his actions challenged, embarrassed, and angered many of his party's leaders, which even Newsom

has to know could well endanger any political future. Some, however, notably **Art Torres**, chair of the California Democratic Party, have supported him. Clearly, political calculation is now what drives Newsom. He has what seems to be an almost evangelical fervor when it comes to equal rights. He was deeply offended by President **George Bush's** homophobic comments on marriage during the State of the Union address in January. Newsom has told me, and others, that it was for him, a defining moment, and a question of doing what was right.

And then Newsom decided to do something about it, forever changing our country. It may well take a decade or more, but I can assure you that ultimately, same-sex marriage will be legal in America just as it is in Canada, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Newsom's courageous and ethical decision showed Americans everywhere that they have nothing to fear from allowing loving, committed, same-sex couples—many with children—to marry. Contrary to what the Neanderthal Christian fundamentalists and bigoted Republicans like state Senator **Pete Knight** (R-Palmdale) and others are claiming, what happened at City Hall for about a month strengthens the institution of marriage and makes it meaningful for thousands of people.

Newsom now can rightfully claim a place among the real civil rights leaders in this country. Thanks too, to other elected officials like Assessor **Mabel Teng**, Supervisors **Bevan Duffy** and **Fiona Ma**, Treasurer **Susan Leal**, Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), Board of Equalization Chairwoman **Carole Migden**, District Attorney **Kamala Harris**, Public Defender **Jeff Adachi**, and others for performing many of the same-sex

weddings at City Hall. Where were some of the other so-called progressive city leaders who should have been taking part in the process? I guess you'll have to ask them, but to be sure, their absence didn't go unnoticed.

Right now, Newsom is in the midst of a well-earned political honeymoon. Those who claimed during the mayoral campaign that he was really just "another wealthy George Bush" have clearly been discredited. Newsom's approval ratings have soared, though some local conservatives have been vocally critical of his actions on same-sex marriage. Surely, the looming budget crisis will test his acumen and leadership and there will be times that this column will disagree with Newsom; we will not hesitate to let him know when we do disagree. However, Newsom has truly earned the respect, admiration, and gratitude of an entire community, and we should never forget what it really is that he has done.

Politics and people

Some at City Hall reportedly wonder what Board of Supervisors President **Matt Gonzalez** is up to politically; it seems he's the only incumbent up for re-election this year who has not made his candidacy official.

Meanwhile, this column has it from a pretty good source that **Janet Reilly** will try to unseat newly appointed Supervisor **Michela Alioto-Pier** in District 2 this November.

And Democratic types that I talk to tell me they expect former Supervisor **Leslie Katz** to replace S.F. Democratic County Central Committee chair **Jane Morrison** when the newly-elected committee organizes next month.

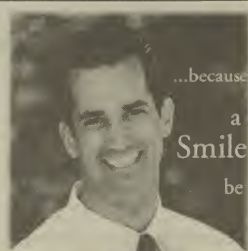
Howard Dean, the man who dropped out of the Democratic presidential race over a month ago, announced plans last week to "mobilize Democrats nationally to defeat George Bush." Dean, the former Vermont governor, pointedly asked his supporters to ignore **Ralph Nader**, declaring, as we all know, that a vote for Nader, who is fast becoming the Harold Stassen of his generation, is nothing more than a vote to help elect George W. Bush. Dean: "I will do everything that I possibly can between now and November to assure that **John Kerry** becomes president and that George W. Bush goes home to Crawford, Texas."

Incidentally, the Bush campaign isn't missing a beat when it comes to raising yet more money. According to campaign financial reports filed last week, the Bush-Cheney camp has already raised over \$158 million, but its fundraising committee has to be given credit for being more than a bit aggressive. The chairman of the Democratic Party, **Terry McAuliffe**, recently received a letter asking for money, along with a photo of President and Mrs. Bush. An inscription "thanked" McAuliffe for his early dedication to the campaign. "Grass-roots leaders like you," it said, "are the key to building a winning team."

Congrats to a couple of good friends—Superior Court Judge **Kevin McCarthy** and his life partner, Dr. **David Bui**,—on the birth of their week-old son, **Gavin Alan Bui**, indeed a happy family.

Finally, a note of thanks and good work to the SF Police Department on the handling of the peace marchers protesting Bush's war on Iraq last Saturday; well done.

And how was your week? ▼



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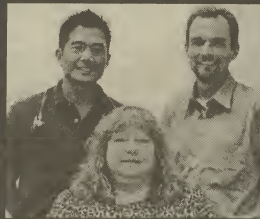
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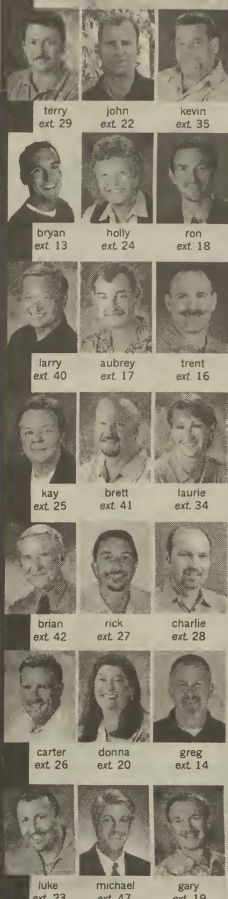
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What was SIR?

by Liz Highleyman

March 1969 (35 years ago this month): Society for Individual Rights member Leo Laurence and his lover appear on the cover of the *Berkeley Barb* newspaper.

By the early 1960s, San Francisco had a flourishing gay subculture, but one that still faced repression. Several events at the turn of that decade – including a major raid on a gay bar, the Tay-Bush Inn, and a police extortion scandal – cemented links between the bar scene and the nascent homophile movement, creating a community that rapidly gained political clout.

Among the era's new groups was the Society for Individual Rights, formed in 1964 by William Beardemphl, Jim Foster, Bill Plath, and other gay activists who had grown tired of the authoritarian leadership style and mismanagement of an earlier group, the League for Civil Education. From the start, SIR differed from older, more conservative homophile groups such as the Mattachine Society, and the new organization's leaders were more assertive and confident in their gay identity. Taking a cue from the burgeoning civil rights movement, SIR demanded equal rights and decried government-sanctioned discrimination.

Having learned from the failings of previous groups, SIR rejected top-down leadership in favor of a democratic, participatory structure. And whereas Mattachine had eschewed billing itself as a social group in order to avoid the appearance of encouraging illegal sexual activity, SIR embraced gay men's need for fellowship. Open to anything its members wanted to organize, SIR sponsored drag shows, dinners, bridge clubs, bowling leagues, softball games, field trips, art classes, and meditation groups.

At a time when same-sex dancing was banned in bars, SIR's most popular events were regular dances held at the group's space on 6th Street near Market in the heart of San Francisco's skid row. Opened in April 1966, the SIR Center – the nation's first gay and lesbian community center – contained office space, a library, and a large public assembly area.

SIR's social activities proved to be the drawing card that got members involved in its service and political work. Along with other local groups, including the Daughters of Bilitis (the nation's first lesbian rights group) and the Tavern Guild (an organization of gay bar owners), SIR helped form the Council on Religion and the

Homosexual, in conjunction with progressive Protestant clergy. A police raid on the coalition's New Year's fundraising ball in 1965 brought media attention to the plight of the city's homosexuals and helped build public sympathy. SIR and the other groups started hosting candidate forums, and progressive politicians began courting the gay vote, taking out ads in *Vector*, SIR's glossy magazine. "If politicians do not openly address themselves to homosexuals," SIR president Beardemphl told the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1966, "they do not need our 90,000 votes."

By 1968, SIR had nearly 1,000 members, making it the largest homophile organization in the country. But the group's success helped usher in changes that would ultimately lead to its demise. Chief among these was the rise of the gay liberation movement. SIR's agenda was firmly assimilationist – committed to "responsible action by responsible people in responsible ways" – and what had once looked like radicalism compared with earlier homophile groups came to be seen as conservatism by a younger generation of gay activists.

This generational rift was evident within SIR itself. In early 1969, the group hired a new *Vector* editor, Leo Laurence, a journalist who had become radicalized while covering the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. In March of that year, Laurence and his lover, Gale Whittington, appeared in a shirtless embrace on the cover of the leftist weekly *Berkeley Barb*. Laurence called for a homosexual revolution and encouraged gay men and lesbians to join forces with radical groups such as the Black Panthers. "After we can admit to ourselves 'gay is good,' the revolution will come," he said. Laurence went further, calling the leadership of SIR "a bunch of middle-class, uptight, bitchy old queens."

SIR ousted Laurence from his position, and he and Whittington went on to form a more radical group, the Committee for Homosexual Freedom. "[T]he enemy of gay progress is now the uptight, authoritarian bureaucracy of SIR," Whittington declared. Other young queer groups also lambasted the "Society for Idle Rap," especially its failure to take a stand against the Vietnam War. But SIR

believed gay men should be allowed to serve in the armed forces, and felt that an antiwar stance would further marginalize homosexuals.

Even as gay liberationists called for revolution, SIR doggedly persisted in its campaign to win acceptance from mainstream society. But the organization's numbers dwindled during the 1970s. According to member George Mendenhall, the group dissolved as other community institutions started taking over the functions SIR had once fulfilled. In particular, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board relaxed its rules against same-sex dancing in bars, leading to a drop in attendance at SIR's dance parties and hence the income they generated. "[T]here was just more awareness, more things going on, and the community didn't need SIR," Mendenhall said.

But SIR's legacy lives on. In 1972, SIR's political committee became the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, the nation's first gay and lesbian Democratic club and still one of the largest and most influential political clubs in San Francisco. And a series of SIR protests and court battles in the 1970s challenging the antigay hiring practices of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company paved the way for employment nondiscrimination protections in both the private sector and the federal government. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Boyd, Nan Alamilla. 2003. *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (University of California Press).

D'Emilio, John. 1983, 1998. *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (University of Chicago Press).

Stryker, Susan, and Jim Van Buskirk. 1996. *Gay by the Bay* (Chronicle Books).

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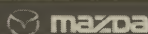


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Gavin Newsom a
hit at EQCA event

by Cynthia Laird

The honeymoon isn't over for San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom as far as many gays and lesbians are concerned. Newsom attended a reception at the Equality California dinner Saturday, March 20 and received sustained applause from the hundreds in attendance as he once again spoke of the importance of equal marriage rights.

The event, held at the Four Seasons Hotel, drew LGBT political leaders, local activists, and straight politicians such as California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi. Other notables who attended included Ron Oden, the openly gay mayor of Palm Springs, and the first same-sex couple to be married in Canada, Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell. Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, the first couple to be married in San Francisco, were also on hand and later in the evening presented an award to Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

"I'm just a conduit to all of you," Newsom said during his remarks. "We proved we advanced the cause of non-discrimination. I really mean this when I say this: there are easy decisions."

On February 12, Newsom made history when he directed



Mayors Ron Oden from Palm Springs and Gavin Newsom from San Francisco greet each other at the Equality California reception.

the county clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The gay marriages continued in City Hall until March 11, when the California Supreme Court ordered a halt and announced it would hear the case. Arguments are expected to take place later this spring. In a separate but related matter the city has filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court.

Acknowledging the continuing struggle for equal rights, the mayor said, "There are people who took risks early on in their

lives." He was referring in part to early lesbian pioneers Lyon and Martin, who have been together for 51 years. "What an honor it was to know that Phyllis and Del were downstairs filling out their application," he added, reflecting on the first day of same-sex marriage in the city.

"Nowhere in the Constitution does it allow to discriminate," Newsom added. "It is wrong."

Introducing Newsom to the crowd, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) said it was an

page 15 ►

Lesbian couple 'weds'
and honeymoons in Vegas

by David Batterson

While gay weddings are illegal in Nevada, the second annual Gay & Lesbian Wedding Expo in Las Vegas of-

fered up a commitment ceremony for a lesbian couple Sunday, March 21 in Henderson, after the pair won a contest sponsored by the expo producer Pride Productions.

Sandra Dynes and Kelli Prince of Fullerton, California, became a committed couple at a ceremony officiated by Mike Briggs, owner of Good Vibrations, a Las Vegas-based mobile disc jockey business.

"We did think about going to San Francisco but, of course, there was a halt to that. So that derailed us a bit. So we're continuing with our ceremony here," said Dynes.

The expo provided the space, music, and a tuxedo for Dynes. Prince wore a traditional bridal gown.

Dynes and Prince have been together three years. "This seals the deal right here," Dynes said just before the ceremony. "My mother [who attended] is extremely happy. She wants nothing but the best for both of us, and I love her for that."

Subtitled "The Celebration of Life, Love and Dreams 2004," the



Sandra Dynes and Kelli Prince

expo proved there's a growing market for same-sex weddings. Held at a banquet event center called Your Parke, the expo featured more than 30 vendors, ranging from florists, bakers, and caterers, to limousine services, Realtors, and insurance agents.

Pride Productions co-owner Chris Penland described the expo

page 15 ►

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Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few

reports of suicide but it is not known if SUSTIVA (efavirenz) was the cause. Rash is another common side effect. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. If you or your child develop a rash, call your doctor right away.

Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking SUSTIVA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime. Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.



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Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?**General Information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.

- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures** [for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]. Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is **very important** to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.

- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Zolof® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay nuptials

◀ page 1

superior court that would raise "a substantial constitutional challenge to the current marriage statutes." Hours after the court issued its ruling, the city did just that and filed a new lawsuit against the state challenging the antigay marriage statutes.

While both Kuo and Lange admit deciphering the court's mindset is like "reading tea leaves" they both suggested its order does offer some insight to how the court may eventually rule. Lange said not only does the Supreme Court's order suggest it does not intend to address the validity of those marriages already performed, but so does the fact those couples already married are not before the court asking them to dissolve their unions.

"There is no precedent in Cali-

fornia for invalidating someone's marriage where it is not being challenged by one of the married couples or where the couple is not before the court," said Lange. "We think it is very unlikely the court would rule or hold those marriages are invalid and it is unlikely they will address the validity of those marriages at all because those couples are not before the court."

Considering the court indicated it wanted the validity of the antigay marriage laws to be considered in a separate case, Kuo said the court will most likely keep the city from performing more same-sex weddings but not rule on the issue of the validity of those marriages already performed.

"Are these marriage licenses out the door? That has never come up before. If you look at the process for how marriage licenses are nullified, this isn't one of them," said Kuo. "If the court wants to be coy about it or be

clever, they will let the injunction stand against Gavin Newsom and not take action on the marriage licenses and reserve action on the question for the second case. Why make 4,000 couples - 8,000 people - go through all of this again if it finds out that under the Constitution you cannot prohibit their issuance?"

While the city may very well lose in the first round, Kuo said the city has a strong chance of winning in the second case.

"If the court is honest about upholding fundamental rights like the right to marry, they will have a hard time finding any basis for a law prohibiting gay people from marrying is rational," he said.

In a statement released last Thursday after his office filed a 43-page brief defending its position in the case, City Attorney Dennis Herrera said the city had "made the strongest, most vigorous de-

page 19 ▶

EQCA

◀ page 12

"understatement to say the mayor was offended" by President Bush's remarks on marriage made during his State of the Union address in January. It has been widely reported that Newsom, who attended the State of the Union, said he was bothered by the president's remarks, which called for marriage to remain a union of a man and a woman.

Leno also spoke of AB1967, his bill that would change the definition of marriage in California that is making its way through the Legislature.

There are also changes in store for EQCA. Executive Director Geoffrey Kors announced during the

dinner that Molly McKay, currently a co-executive director of Marriage Equality California, would be coming on board as an associate executive director for EQCA. The move puts MECA, which will keep its name, under the EQCA umbrella.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, March 23, McKay told the *Bay Area Reporter* that one of the goals of MECA is to get chapters organized in all of the state's 58 counties by the end of the year; currently MECA has affiliations in 33 counties, she said.

McKay, a litigator for Gordon & Rees LLP in the city, will leave her job at the law firm to work full time on marriage equality beginning April 5.

"I am thrilled, even though it results in about a 50 percent cut in

pay," she said, declining to be more specific.

McKay said the law firm is supportive and refused to accept her letter of resignation, opting to call it a leave of absence.

"I explained to my boss that I felt like I was being drafted into the army of love," McKay said.

MECA has been like the ACT UP of the gay marriage movement, McKay explained, and will continue its grassroots focus and activist bent.

"It will be a little bit of a change for members, there will be some transitional changes and there will be some challenges," McKay said, but she added that the two groups "have been dating for the last year."

"We'll be very compatible," she added. "I think it's the right fit." ▼

Vegas wedding

◀ page 12

as helping gay couples plan "the commitment ceremony of their lives." The idea for the expo came when he and his partner Chris Counterman "had a hard enough time trying to find someone to do our wedding. So we decided to do a gay and lesbian wedding show."

He talked of wondering "when you walk into a store if you are going to be kicked out of the store because you are a gay couple." That didn't happen to Penland and Counterman, but Penland said he'd "heard of that happening" to other gay couples. "We had our commitment ceremony six years ago," said Penland, at

Cupid's Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas. "They were very open to it, and they made us feel comfortable."

He said that "Treasure Island [a major hotel and casino on the Strip] does them now, and Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel does them as well." The wedding chapel at Treasure Island was featuring a special offer at its booth: a commitment ceremony for \$250, including minister's fee, two long-stem roses, a unity candle ensemble, personalized wedding music, and a bottle of champagne.

Dillard's also had a booth at the expo, Dillard's Wedding Registry, promoting its free registry service at www.dillards.com. The Rainbow.WeddingNetwork.com offered free bumper stickers, which read "Same Love, Same

Rights."

Penland doesn't predict when legal weddings might happen in Las Vegas. "It's probably going to be a while," he said. "But hopefully this expo is another step in the right direction."

This was the first same-sex commitment ceremony for Briggs to conduct. "It's probably something I'll get into more; it's a lot of fun," Briggs is not ordained, but that's not a requirement for commitment ceremonies.

As for legal gay weddings, Briggs said, "I wish they'd do it tomorrow; it's something they need to do. Everybody is equal; I don't see why they don't." The dominance of Mormons in Nevada politics "does have a bit to say about it," Briggs added. "But I think if the people make the big push, it can happen." ▼

in the Bay Area. He is a graduate of U.C. Santa Barbara and has a J.D. degree from McGeorge School of Law. He is a supervising attorney for the Oakland City Attorney's office where he oversees work on blight and nuisance issues.

The couple met in San Francisco on a rainy day in January 1990 and have been together ever since. Together, they helped raise Mr. Douglas's son, who was 10 when the couple met. They moved to their current home in the Redwood Heights neighborhood of Oakland in 1999.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding announcements and photos (JPG format) may be sent via e-mail to BARpaper@aol.com or mailed to *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Announcements must be no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and grammar. For questions, please send e-mail to the above address.



Brian Douglas and James Hodgkins

Brian Douglas and James Hodgkins were wed on Friday, February 27 at 11 a.m. during a ceremony on the balcony of City Hall Rotunda. The couple has been together more than 14 years and had a ceremony attended by over a dozen family and friends.

Mr. Douglas was born in Glens Falls, New York and has lived in the Bay Area since 1973. He is employed by Dolby Laboratories as a Senior Electro/Mechanical designer. He has one son, James, a student at California State University, Los Angeles. James was able to fly from Los Angeles for the ceremony and was a witness. Mr. Robert Long of Oakland was the other witness.

Mr. Hodgkins was born and raised

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Amendment

◀ page 1

and inject the federal government into the area of family law that heretofore had been the sole responsibility of the states.

She was critical of a revised version of the FMA introduced only the day before by Senator Wayne Allard and Representative Marilyn Musgrave, both Colorado Republicans and original sponsors of the FMA.

"I think this change of language is a good indication of how controversial and complex this issue is—here, on the eve of a hearing into the text of one amendment, we see a change in language so dramatic that we are now really confronted with a different amendment altogether, with its own unique problems," Feinstein said. Amending the Constitution "is not a process best done overnight, on a moment's notice."

Allard called the changes a minor tinkering to make his original intent more clear. Those changes were to define marriage as only between a man and a woman; to provide a definite role for the state legislatures in enacting other types of legal protections for same-sex couples; and to limit the judiciary.

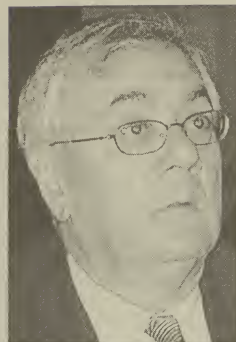
Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) was at his most combative as the second witness on the panel of experts. He said the wording of the amendment would prohibit states from offering protections such as those of civil unions and domestic partners benefits.

"We [gay people] want to express love in the same way that you do," said Frank, who is one of only three openly gay representatives. "If I choose to associate with another man, how does that hurt you?"

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. What you have with marriage, we admire it, we would like to be able to share it," Frank said. "If you are not prepared to make it illegal for gays to have children," and few people are proposing that, then how can you justify not giving those children the same legal protections as their schoolmates have in their households, he asked.

He pointed to Massachusetts, where a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage is likely to be put to the citizens for a vote. But a FMA would preclude that; "If the people decide to allow it [gay marriage], you will cancel it out."

"I oppose any amendment that seeks to write discrimination into our United States Constitution," said Representative John Lewis (D-Georgia), a longtime civil rights activist and ordained Baptist minister. Conservatives have scorned any attempt to link the



Rep. Barney Frank

black and gay civil rights movements, as have some in the African American community.

Lewis said, "I ask the question: Where would we be as a nation if Congress in 1954, 50 years ago, had radically amended our Constitution to uphold segregation or the separate but equal doctrine? I further ask: Where would we be as a nation if Congress in 1967 made it unconstitutional for interracial couples to marry?"

"I have fought too hard and too long against discrimination based on race and color not to stand up against discrimination based on sexual orientation," he added.

During discussion, Allard said his intent in clarifying the language was "to remove any doubt that we were trying to limit" a state's authority to write laws governing civil unions or domestic partner arrangements for same-sex couples. He was simply trying to limit the actions of the courts on constitutional matters, he explained.

Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) recalled the oath of office he had taken "to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States." He was more than troubled by the fact that changes they were discussing "had been delivered to us less than 24 hours ago."

"I disagree that they are just technical changes," he said. Durbin interpreted the phrase "or the legal incidence of marriage" to include health insurance coverage through domestic partner type arrangements or benefits programs of private employers.

He wondered why the words "unmarried couples or groups" had been deleted, and the amendment no longer banned polygamy. He asked whether traditional marriage includes polygamy. Does it bar interracial marriage? He lamented that the sponsors of the bill were not present to explain their intent.

Feinstein thought the revised FMA would stand existing principles of governance on their head by "giving the legislatures more au-

thority than the [state] constitution." She found it "puzzling" that the proposed FMA "allows general law to trump the Constitution. I believe this is unprecedented."

Cass R. Sunstein, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School agreed that the FMA "shows contempt" for the federal process.

Sunstein believes if the revised FMA were to become part of the U.S. Constitution, a ballot initiative passed by the voters of California to allow gay marriage would be legal if it took the form of a common law, but it would be unconstitutional under the U.S. Constitution and the revised FMA if it took the form of an amendment to the California Constitution.

Phyllis Bossin testified for the American Bar Association as chair of its section on family law. She said the ABA opposes "any constitutional amendment that would restrict the ability of a state to protect the rights of children by determining the qualifications for civil marriage between two persons within its jurisdiction."

She belittled fears that have led to the proposed amendment. "One does not amend the Constitution on a hunch. One does not amend the Constitution to call a halt to democratic debate within the states. An amendment should be reserved for the most urgent and compelling circumstances. It is a last resort."

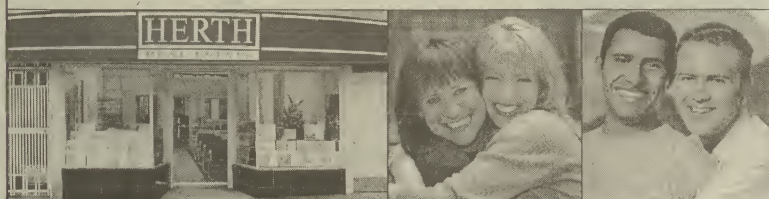
Toward the very end of the hearing Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama) revealed what was for him the principle rationale for the language of the FMA: it's a way to get at activist federal judges who find claims of equal protection in the U.S. Constitution for gays and other minorities.

"It goes to the separation of powers," he said. If we "allow the judicial branch to depart from the law ... then we have lost our democracy." To Sessions, it was all about raw majority rule with no concern for minority protections.

But it seems that most Republican members of Congress do not share his concerns. Focus on the Family had sent e-mails to its supporters urging them to contact their senators and have them ask tough questions, otherwise the record "will tip in favor of homosexual activists." But the Republican members of the committee continued to stay away in droves, while the Democrats have appeared in force.

At Tuesday's hearing, Musgrave, the chief sponsor of the FMA in the House, appeared only briefly to read a statement and did not stay for questions. Allard, the Senate sponsor, left part way through the question session. Frank sees this as an indication that most Republicans in Congress do not want to deal with this issue. ▼

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OBITUARIES

San Francisco releases HIV reporting data

by Matthew S. Bajko

While the city has seen a small shift in new HIV cases toward gay and bisexual men of color, white gay men remain the largest group impacted by HIV in San Francisco, according to an analysis of HIV reporting data.

Out of 4,971 reported cases of HIV, 803 were found to be newly diagnosed while 4,168 were found to be newly reported cases of HIV but diagnosed in the past. Whereas whites make up 69 percent of newly reported cases, they accounted for only 53 percent of new diagnoses. African Americans accounted for only 15 percent of new cases but 19 percent of new diagnoses.

Latinos represented 11 percent of new cases and 15 percent of new diagnoses, while other minority groups comprised 5 percent of new cases and 9 percent of new diagnoses. As for transgenders, they make up 2 percent of new cases and 4 percent of new diagnoses.

"While at first glance it looks like the epidemic has shifted, but don't assume that," emphasized Sandra Schwarcz, director of the HIV/AIDS epidemiology section of the Department of Public Health, who presented the data for the first time Monday, March 22 at a meeting of the HIV Health Services Planning Council. "There has been a small shift to [men who have sex with men] of color.



Sandra Schwarcz

But it is not like the East Coast, which has an epidemic among African American MSM IDUs [injection drug users]. We don't."

The data is based on HIV cases reported between July 1, 2002 and February 29, 2004. The data is still preliminary and health officials are still investigating 3,684 HIV cases reported over the last year and a half. Schwarcz explained that the city receives 5,000 case reports every month and must investigate which of those cases are new cases, duplicates of already known HIV cases, or viral load tests for people known to have AIDS.

In a telephone interview Tuesday morning, Schwarcz said the city is approximately halfway through reporting the cases of people in San Francisco who have the HIV infection and are aware of

their HIV infection. She said the city still estimates about 9,000 people with HIV live in San Francisco, with 20 percent unaware they carry the virus that causes AIDS.

The city's AIDS caseload is estimated at 9,500 cases, and as of December 31, 2003, new AIDS cases, as well as AIDS deaths, continued to decline. According to the data, the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco is increasing. One reason given is that survival rates are improving due to HAART, though women, African Americans, IDUs, and the homeless are all less likely to receive HAART, or highly active antiretroviral therapy.

AIDS cases are still heavily weighted toward MSMs, who account for 72 percent, while MSM IDUs account for 12 percent. AIDS, the data shows, still disproportionately impacts white and African American men.

While white men account for 45 percent of city residents, they make up 70 percent of AIDS cases. Only 8 percent of city residents are African American men but they account for 12 percent of AIDS cases. Latino male residents (15 percent) and AIDS cases (13 percent) are relatively the same, while Asian men remain the least impacted by AIDS. Asians make up 28 percent of the city's population but only 4 percent of AIDS cases.

"Asians are less at risk for AIDS," said Schwarcz. ▼

Ernest G. Orn

July 7, 1930 — March 4, 2004



Ernie Orn, a kind and adventurous soul, with many friends on both sides of the Bay, died of an apparent heart attack on March 4. A fourth-generation Californian, Ernie was born in Richmond and grew up in the East Bay. After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1952, Ernie served in the U.S. Navy, and then enjoyed a rich and varied worklife as a City Manager, small business owner, and commercial real estate agent.

In the early 1960's, Ernie met his life partner, Jimmy Fikes, a member of the Air Force who was stationed at Travis Air Force Base. Later, Ernie and Jimmy served together in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Jimmy died in 1999. Ernie is sur-

vived by his cousins Elizabeth Rubio, Domenica Marcantelli, and William Freeman; by his many friends at Martini's, his "after hours office"; and by David, Art, Dorothy, Stacy, Susie, Tom and Susan and others in his group of family/friends at Marina Bay Northshore in Richmond. Everyone in his life came together for his annual July 4th party.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, April 3 at 1:00 at Salute Ristorante, 1900 Esplanade, in Marina Bay, Richmond.

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obits must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obits is Monday at 5 p.m.

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Araujo trial

◀ page 1

answering a thick written questionnaire and engaging in public interviews with attorneys for the prosecution and defense.

Serra's interactions with the jury pool this week have not only painted Araujo as "deceptive" for living as a female, but have put forth incorrect definitions of medical terminology, and have unapologetically instructed jurors to consider their own capacities for transphobic violence.

On Tuesday, March 23, Serra, using theatrical vocal inflections and hand gestures, asked those in attendance if they had given thought to how they might react if they "had sex with a person believed to be a member of the opposite sex... only to find out they were a member of your own sex."

He furthered his trans-panic defense with biased questions cloaked in seemingly non-controversial language.

"Do you feel you could handle, objectively, sexual deceit?" Serra asked one potential juror.

Serra also instructed one juror that a "true transgender" is someone "who has had an operation," while a "transvestite" is someone who "has just been acting like something they are not." A transvestite, however, "could be in the process of becoming transgender," he said.

In fact, there is no terminology for a "true transgender"; medically speaking, there is a "true transsexual," defined by experts and professionals as someone who has long identified, and lives as, a member of the opposite sex from which they were born, re-

gardless of whether they have yet had surgery. The word "transgender" often functions as an umbrella category for all gender variant people, yet even given the emerging fluid and genderqueer identities in younger circles — which have caused some queer-savvy people to question whether Araujo intended to live full-time as a woman — such identities are far from masquerades.

How is it that the defense is able to put forth false information that potentially taints jurors?

"If the court does not already have a grasp of the issues and language, then a lawyer might play with it," said Ellise Nicholson, an investigator with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission whose background is in criminal defense. "But the prosecution could then try to put forth experts that would counter that."

Chris Daley, attorney and co-director of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco, agreed that how the prosecution handles such misinformation could determine whether jurors feel the crime was justified, or whether they feel that the defense has misrepresented its case.

"Unfortunately this idea of gender fraud is still a pervasive belief in some parts of our culture," said Daley. "It's going to be up to the prosecution to educate the judge and jury about how transgender people really live their lives, and to counteract the lies and hysteria being perpetuated by the defense attorneys in this case."

Jury selection likely will continue through the week. Opening arguments are expected to begin during the week of March 29. ▼

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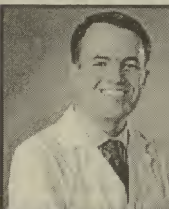
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Track trek

by Jim Provenzano

Five members of the San Francisco Track and Field team are competing in Boston this weekend (March 26-28) at the U.S. National Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Reggie Snowden, Curtis Moore, and Gwynne Villegas will be part of a four-man relay team. They're hoping to recruit another runner to complete their team in Boston.

Bob Callori will compete in the 60-meter and 200-meter race in the 55-60-year-old category. At Gay Games VI in Sydney, he ran in the 100- and 200-meter races.

I talked with runners at Kezar Stadium last week, as they waited for a high school match between Washington and Lowell to finish up. Other runners also waited to use the field into the night hours in the stadium where the first two Gay Games were held.

Callori said he was inspired by other SF Track and Field members to go to Boston. Last November, he also traveled to Sydney for Gay Games VI. "I've never run on an indoor track," he said.

"I have no idea what I'm getting into. That's the whole idea, just to experience it, to see what it's like."

For Snowden and Moore, Sydney was the last relay in which they competed, as part of the 4x100 relay. Snowden last competed individually a few months ago at the Eugene, Oregon U.S. Masters Outdoor Championships. Of the Boston event, "It includes the best in the nation," Snowden said.

Moore remains relaxed about the event. "I just go in, I don't really think about it," said Moore, who won a record 13 medals in Sydney. "It's more for us to get a chance at an indoor meet. A lot of people on the East Coast have been competing at indoor meets since January, so this is more like a glorified training. It gives us an idea of where we are."

Indoor events have a number of variations for the five men to tackle. Of the four-man relay team, Villegas competed in a younger age category in Sydney, but they're all in the same group now.

"I've been told, that given my stature, it should be a good transition, since I'm a lot shorter than others," Villegas competed in the last three Games as well.

"This time we're all in 35-39," said Villegas, who's not daunted by the different indoor format.

"It's a completely different track," said Snowden. "Indoors is a 200-meter facility, as opposed to outdoors, which is 400 meters. It's more of an intimate setting, where everything is so close, and a bit livelier. We'll be running close, and going through the same motions, of course, but everything is quicker."

"It's also banked on both corners," added Moore. "You kind of start in lanes, but bunch up, trying to get a place. It's a lot of fun. People are there to compete, but also to have fun."

Other gay teams will also be there, including members of Boston Frontrunners, some of whom the San Franciscans know from Sydney and previous Games. A few gay runners from Seattle and Oregon may also compete.

Callori mentioned that he and some others might try to find time to attend the Gay & Lesbian Athletic Foundation's second annual



Boston-bound tracksters: From left: Bob Callori, Curtis Moore, Gwynne Villegas, and Reggie Snowden

conference, taking place the same weekend at MIT facilities.

Snowden has an especially arduous plan, which includes competing in the pentathlon the morning after taking a red-eye flight into Boston.

Not including baggage claim and security checks, his five events include 55-meter hurdles, long jump (his second best event), shot put, high jump, and lastly, the 1000-meter run.

Let's wish our local runners good luck this weekend!

A mighty Windes

Lisa Congdon, SF Tsunami president, has announced a memorial for former Team San Francisco co-chair and IGLA leader, Rick Windes, who died recently of AIDS-related complications.



Swimmer Rick Windes

Congdon said that Team Tsunami is planning a memorial for Windes, to be held Monday, March 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, 4th floor.

"We'll start with a potluck dinner from 7:30-8:30 and everyone will have the opportunity to share memories of Rick at 8:30," said Congdon. "If you have them, please bring any photos or memories you have of Rick that you'd like to share with the group. And please also bring something to share for the potluck."

Rick Peterson of Seattle said he was "very sad to hear of Rick's passing." Peterson called Windes, "the consummate volunteer par excellence right through to the end. What an inspiration, and what a tireless champion for LGBT emancipation through sport and culture."

Windes's passing has led some to consider a Gay Games Hall of Fame for those who gave their time and effort for the GLBT athletics.

In a 1999 interview about Team Tsunami swimmers preparing for that year's International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics championship in Atlanta, Windes, then the record keeper for IGLA events, had taken up officiating at swim-

ming events. He had competed in every major GLBT aquatics event since Gay Games I, and had been out for decades, "making sure that Masters Swimming is aware of us," he said.

"I love to swim a great race and kick a few straight butts," he joked at the time. "Given the male psyche, some of those people don't take that well, but it makes a point. We've found a way to have fun, and make a point."

For more information on the club, visit www.sftsunami.org.

On course

LPGA golfer Rosie Jones came out in a self-penned article in last Sunday's *New York Times*.

Jones, a 13-time winner in 22 years on the tour, said she was "a little bit nervous. This is different for me only because it's all right out there - to my fans and the media. Before I wasn't really open to scrutiny, but now I'm going to be."

Olivia, a prominent company that provides travel services to lesbians, will sponsor the 44-year-old Jones.

Jones clarified the rumors of her private life, and perhaps alleviated questions about lesbian golfers the same week as thousands of partying lesbians visited Palm Springs for the famed Dinah Shore Classic golf tournament.

"I'm sure some people will criticize me for coming out so late," she wrote in the *Times* op-ed piece. "To them, I say simply, I wasn't ready until now. If gay rights are about anything, it should be about letting people come out on their own timetable and on their own terms."

Jones said she has been comfortably out to close friends for 25 years. "I know that coming out in today's politically supercharged environment surrounding gay issues has the potential to spin into something I do not intend," she wrote. "But first and foremost, I am a proud and blessed member of the LPGA and a professional athlete - not an activist."

After speaking to family, friends and LPGA officials about her decision to go public, all were unanimous in support.

"I think more people are ready for this kind of situation," Jones said later in an Associated Press interview, "and I think they're kind of used to it in sports with a few people having come out before me." She said she hopes fans continue to support her.

"I'm optimistic that my fans will see me as the same competitive, hard-working Rosie I've always been," Jones wrote in her op-ed piece, "and respect this new aspect of my life as I respect their diversity."

For more sports articles, visit www.sportscomplex.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

Alan Cumming named Pride celebrity marshal

by Zak Szymanski

Well-known actor Alan Cumming has accepted the honor of being celebrity grand marshal at this year's San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration.

The openly gay Scotland native Cumming, 39, won a Tony award for his role as the emcee in the 1998 Broadway performance of *Cabaret*. Cumming's film credits include *Spy Kids*, *X2: X-Men United*, *The Anniversary Party*, *Josie and the Pussycats*, and *Eyes Wide Shut*, among others.

"I am delighted to be grand marshal at San Francisco LGBT Pride. I have always been proud of who I am, and I look forward to celebrating with other like-minded people, especially in this year when so many people in America seem to be realizing that we have every right to be proud, and to have the same entitlements as anyone else," said a statement from Cumming. "Sexuality should never affect a citizen's rights, and

any government that withholds benefits, privileges or rights for this reason should be ashamed and run out of office. I hope this year we will have more to celebrate than ever before, including the resounding failure of the constitutional amendment which seems to me a blatant attempt at persecution!"

San Francisco Pride President Joey Cain celebrated Cumming's honor, emphasizing that the actor has "gotten to where he is by being open about his sexuality, not hiding it to advance his career."

Cumming's charity work - including his support for New York City's HIV/AIDS organization Bailey House - further earns him the honor, said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington.

"Alan Cumming is one of these great actors who shows dexterity in his art and compassion in his philanthropy," said Witherington.

This year is the 34th anniversary of the San Francisco Pride Celebration and Parade. The event will be held over the June 26-27 weekend. ▼

Discrimination

◀ page 3

to get married, but there were incidents that occurred after that, and we are investigating those incidents," said Dase. "We are not investigating his homosexuality or the fact that his students discovered it. This is not an investigation against him. There is no plan to discipline him. This doesn't have much to do with anything with him, if you're getting my drift."

To ensure that he is not unlawfully discriminated against, Fanelle has obtained legal counsel; at the moment Shannon Minter from San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights is monitoring the situation.

For Fanelle, the backlash has

actually made the greatest case for legalized gay marriage, as normalizing it would have removed any elements of scandal and allowed him to discuss his spouse without mentioning sexuality, just as the heterosexual teachers do.

"If anything this is a great example of how unrecognized relationships are discriminated against. Had I been heterosexual and married and the kids found out, none of this ever would have happened," he said. "I just feel violated."

Still, Fanelle said he has no regrets about tying the knot.

"It was a beautiful ceremony," he said. "But some people took something so beautiful and personal and turned it into fodder for gossip and a license to do whatever they wanted to do to me." ▼

Employee rights

◀ page 5

"People confuse conduct and sexual orientation as the same thing, and I don't think they are," Bloch told the publication March 10.

Elaine Kaplin, his predecessor, strongly disagreed. She called his reasoning "nonsensical."

Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut), senior members of the Government Affairs Committee, wrote to Bloch expressing their concern about this action being

inconsistent with his testimony at the confirmation hearing.

"The action by the special counsel constitutes a dramatic rollback of basic protections," said Log Cabin Republican Executive Director Patrick Guerriero in a March 18 letter to Bloch. "Rolling back more than 30 years of protections for gay and lesbian employees is unacceptable."

Guerriero asked Bloch to reverse his actions and called upon the Bush administration "to remain true to their word" not to discriminate against gays and lesbians. ▼

Gay nuptials

◀ page 15

fense possible of the administrative authority of Mayor Newsom and County Clerk [Nancy] Alfaro in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples."

Privately, some in City Hall say the city faces an uphill battle in convincing the Supreme Court justices to agree with its position. Instead, most observers believe the city has better standing in the second case it filed against the

state. No matter the challenges, the city is determined to prevail, eventually.

As Herrera said in his statement last week, "My office remains vigilant in our efforts to secure equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples in a separate, complimentary legal action in Superior Court. With our original complaint filed last week, San Francisco seeks an unequivocal declaration from the court that state provisions prohibiting marriage between same-sex couples are unconstitutional." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing and availability of preliminary recommendations for San Francisco's 2004 community development block grant (cdbg) emergency shelter grant (esg) and home investment partnership (home) programs.

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2004

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 263

Board of Supervisors Committee Room

The Citizens Committee on Community Development, Mayor's Office of Community Development and Mayor's Office of Housing invite interested parties to attend a public hearing on the preliminary funding recommendations for the federally funded CDBG, ESG and HOME Programs. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the preliminary recommendations. If you have any questions regarding the public hearing, please call (415) 252-3100.

Beginning Wednesday, March 31st, the 2004 Preliminary Recommendations will be available electronically on the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD) website at www.sfdhs.org/mocd. Copies of the recommendations will also be available at MOCD, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 700. The Preliminary Recommendations will not be mailed.

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The Legion of Honor will have special extended hours until 8:45 p.m. every Friday from April 9 through July 2. Special programming will be offered on many of the evenings. For information call: 415-750-7634.

Free docent tours of the permanent collections and special exhibitions are offered Tuesday through Sunday. Non-English language tours (Italian, French and Spanish) are available on Saturdays. For information, call 415-750-3638.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The Department of the Environment's mission is to improve, enhance and preserve the environment and promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability. The Department of the Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field (415)554-6390.

STATEMENT FILE A-0274012-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Megaloma Services 425 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gary Hoffman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0274051-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Rose Transport 1201 Geneva Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Willson Rirao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J.L. Hauling 1112 Shotwell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jose Luis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/17/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273983-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lemieux Entertainment, 2 Play Fast-forward Design 555 O'Farrell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lawrence Lemieux. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273968-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: PI San Francisco/Cashion & Ferrara 1401 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Robert M. Ferrara. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273801-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Harrison Urban Forest Products 457 Mariposa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than partnership signed Michael Harrison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0263396-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Italo Espresso Machine Service. Located at 7444 47th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business was conducted by an individual signed Italo Regoli. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/03/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273906-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flourish Gardening 359 Bocana San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed W. T. Holt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/24/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273762-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Glimpse 12 Winfield Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sara G. Alm. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04. **MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0273779-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: C & M Handyman Repair Service 318 Lakeview St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Craig Biggers Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04. **MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004**

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals # 275 Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco, Department of Human Services (DHS) is seeking bids from qualified contractors to provide architectural and project management services for the renovation of the first floor of 150 Otis Street. The renovations will allow DHS to provide emergency shelter services to homeless individuals. Qualified individuals and firms, including minority/women-owned business enterprises, are encouraged to respond.

The contract period will run from 5/14/04 to 9/30/04 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Friday, March 19, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after Friday, March 19, 2004. Go to [HTTP://SUN-SET.CLSF.CA.US/BIDS.NSF](http://SUN-SET.CLSF.CA.US/BIDS.NSF) and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mission St, Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson, at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Monday, April 19, 2004 at 4:00 PM.

03/25/04 • CNS- 652527#
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STATEMENT FILE A-0274150-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Towing 3101 3rd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Gerardo Hernandez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/02/04. **MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0274146-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Let's Get Wet Entertainment 1049 Market St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Charles Bocchetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/02/04. **MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004**

STATEMENT FILE A-0274166-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Joe's Barber Shop 4102 19th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joseph Gallagher. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/03/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04. **MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541227

In the Matter of the Application of Alex Kirienco for Change of Name. The application of Alex Kirienco for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alex Kirienco has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alex Kiren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004



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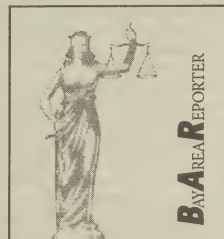
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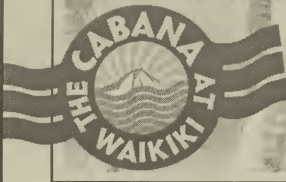
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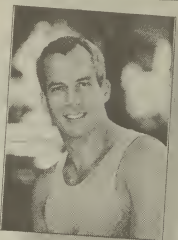
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0274022-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Drums and Wires 526 Broderick St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Kevin H.
Achs. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 02/26/04. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274175-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: SFVIVOR 1221 Jones Street, Apt. 4B
San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is
conducted by a general partnership signed
Ellen Chanley. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
n/a. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274228-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Blue Water Real Estate Group 447 Ivy
Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed James N Rothman. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 03/04/04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274257-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: #1 Lost Art #2 Atelier Lost Art 3440
18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This
business is conducted by a corporation
signed Mario Kashou. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 02/27/04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 03/05/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274355-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: See LLC 128 King St, 3rd floor San
Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is con-
ducted by a limited liability company signed
Andrew Narraway. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
01/01/04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03/10/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274107-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Cardlock #430 200 Toland Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is
conducted by a limited liability company
signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274189-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: iLoanOfficer Mortgage 505 Mont-
gomery St. 7th Floor San Francisco, Ca.
94111. This business is conducted by a cor-
poration signed Gregory C. Pennington. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 03/01/04. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274391-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: A Wicked Secret 30 Collingwood St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by a general partnership signed
Daryl Cullen. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
03/11/04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03/11/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274381-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Otaku Patrol Group, OPG Communica-
tions 1133 Mason Ct. Suite H, Treasure Is-
land, San Francisco Ca. 94130. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual signed A.
Thorsson. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on n/a. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274457-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: 2's Fashion Jewelry 888 Brannan St.,
Ste. 2075 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This
business is conducted by a husband and wife
signed Jing Shao. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
03-15-04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03-15-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274106-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Flyers #232 2000 19th Avenue San
Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is con-
ducted by a limited liability company signed
Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
01/01/04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274104-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Flyers #233 2301 19th Avenue San
Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is con-
ducted by a limited liability company signed
Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
01/01/04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274108-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Cardlock #437 2690 3rd Street San
Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is con-
ducted by a limited liability company signed
Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
01/01/04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO.CNC 04-541243**
In the Matter of the Application of Sandra
Elizabeth Merk for Change of Name. The
application of Sandra Elizabeth Merk for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Sandra Elizabeth Merk has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Elizabeth Sandra Cocco. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,
that all persons interested in said matter do
appear before this Court in Department 218
on the 20th day of May at 9:00am of said
day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274109-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Flyers #235 3300 Caesar Chavez St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is
conducted by a limited liability company
signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273894-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Pussy Kat Productions 4096 17th St,
#204 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual
signed Kathleen Amendola. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact busi-
ness under the above listed fictitious busi-
ness name or names on 02-24-04. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 02-24-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274644-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: HD Technology 211 Ashton Avenue San
Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is con-
ducted by an individual signed Yue Bing
Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 03-22-04. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274637-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Big Art's Hauling 1319 S. Van Ness
Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This busi-
ness is conducted by an individual signed
Arturo Pleitez. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
03-22-04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274676-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Minda Lee Fine Home Detailing 429
Douglass St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114.
This business is conducted by an individual
signed Minda Jo Lee. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on n/a. The statement was filed with
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 03-22-04.
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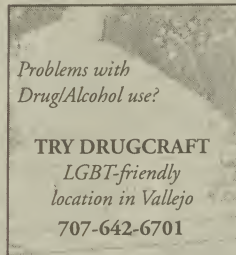


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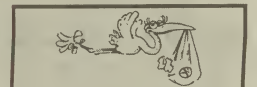
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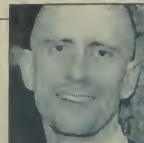
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Shrine to rhinestones & feather boas
Costumes, jewelry and flamboyance at the Liberace Museum in old Las Vegas.
page 29

Slice of Eurocinema
Hungarian hiccups and a Polish fable at the Castro.
page 30



Young, adult & gay
'Geography Club' lessons with Brent Hartinger.
page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 13 • 25 March 2004

Finding the blast in Balanchine

San Francisco Ballet's Mr. B festival begins

by Stephanie von Buchau

January 22, 2004 marked the 100th birthday of George Balanchine, the 20th century's most prolific, influential ballet choreographer. Until April 4, San Francisco Ballet, whose artistic director Helgi Tomasson danced for Balanchine for 15 years, is throwing a birthday party titled *The Balanchine Festival*, but it's a lot more fun than that formal title indicates.

In fact, the opening program, seen last Friday night at the War Memorial Opera House, may have been too much of a good thing. The second Balanchine evening includes the lighter-weight *Square Dance* and *Who Cares?*, but there were no light moments Friday — unless you count the sweetly comic interaction of the young Apollo and his three muses.

Tomasson got the proceedings off on the right foot with a short, emotional (for him) speech on what dancing for Balanchine meant. Music director Andrew Mogrelia, who conducted all three pieces, then led Stravinsky's "Greeting Prelude," a short, dissonant gloss on "Happy Birthday." The first revival was the immortal *Serenade*, a piece in SFB's repertory since 1952. For years it acted on me as an inoculation against Balanchine because it was danced so badly — way too slow in the allegro movements, awkward and silly in the poetic finale. One night, the boys carrying Lynda Meyer off stage dropped her in the wings.

Since Tomasson took over SFB, the Balanchine repertory has been brought smack up to speed. I remember weeping the

page 28 ►



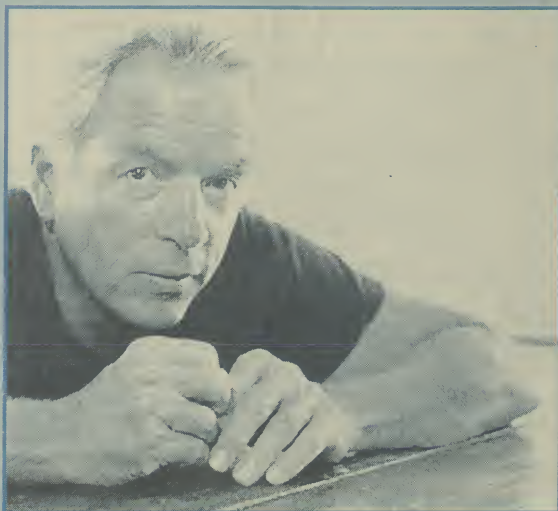
Yuan Yuan
Tan, Vanessa
Zahorian,
Sarah
Van Patten,
Gonzalo Garcia
in Balanchine's
Apollo

Photo courtesy of SF Ballet

Swimming with Spalding Gray

Bisexuality, Buddhism and the Bulls, in his own words

by David Lambie



News that Spalding Gray had drowned himself by jumping off the Staten Island Ferry struck a sad and bitterly ironic note to fans of his seminal work, *Swimming to Cambodia*. *Swimming's* central conceit was that it was easier to swim to Cambodia from New York than to explain the hideous irony of its auto-genocide, which is after all a kind of national suicide. By the time he vanished into the waters of New York Harbor on January 10, Spalding Gray appeared to have let the world in on all his secrets, exploring some very dark places in 25 monologues that covered the waterfront from puberty (*Sex and Death to the Age of 14*) and his topsy-turvy schooldays (*Booze, Cars and College Girls*) to becoming a father in midlife (*Morning, Noon and Night*). Last year, he had even begun a painful autopsy of the 2001 car accident in Ireland that had left him with a fractured skull, a crushed hip and a paralyzing depression (*Life Interrupt-*

ed). Depression was a lifelong nemesis: his mother Elizabeth Gray had taken her life in 1967, and Gray had counted as a watershed event passing his mother's final age of 52.

Swimming to Cambodia is not only littered with references to depression and suicide but is buoyed up with hilarious accounts of his long-running affair with producer/girlfriend Rene Shafransky. Gray was determined not to leave the Far East before experiencing a Zenlike "perfect moment."

Gay men who loved Gray's work and met him often came away with the feeling that we had found a kindred soul, a fellow traveler. Descriptions of his battles with Shafransky were sharply and wittily observed but lacked the venomous, annihilating misogyny that often scars straight male dispatches from the battle of the sexes.

Gray: "[Rene's] very confrontational and always wants to talk about what is going on in the relationship, not the sunset. So she went off to talk to [Killing Fields actor] Julian Sands, and I went to [second unit

page 35 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

March makeover madness

Don't let's go to the dogs tonight

by Roberto Friedman

Honestly, don't you think straight America is completely obsessed with getting beauty makeovers? Then they're concerned about possibly being perceived as gay! Can we talk cognitive dissonance?

"Honey," the new men's shopping magazine *Cargo* asks, "does this embroidered shirt make me look gay?" If you have to ask, honey, the answer is yes.

Now, it happens that our pal **Pepi** has an embroidered shirt he is fond of wearing. When he does, he looks just like a handsome young dad wearing the shirt his daughter made him in Home Ec. OK, a handsome young gay dad. But as you know, our particular demographic is at the fashion forefront.

But what else is the discriminating *Cargo* reader wearing? **Denim Double-Knee** pants, a brand of stuffed-crotch trousers described as "engineered to pump up what you've got going on downtown." Ooh honey, let's take an express train right there.

Now comes word that home-furnishing chain Pier 1 Imports has eased out actress **Kirstie Alley** as spokeswoman, and replaced her with *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* "design doctor" **Thom Filicia** as spokeswoman.

"We wanted somebody who was renowned as a decorator-expert, and Thom certainly has been well-connected in his career," Pier



Design guru Thom Filicia

1 CEO **Marvin J. Girouard** told the Associated Press. "He's done some things that we think will really play well into our type of merchandising and advertising." But does he wear **Denim Double-Knee** extra-stuffed?

Filicia claims he uses Pier 1 items in his designs, so he had no problem signing up as a pitchman for a year. "There's so much personality in their pieces," he said, piquantly. "This is a store where you can really express yourself." Yes, if you speak the language of matching rattan end-tables. Honey, let's get out of here!

Toto-ly fabulous

As crime-solving pooch **Scoo-**



Scooby-Doo says, "Rut-roh!"

by-Doo, now starring in a stoopid new movie (a sequel, no less) has been known to remark: "Rut-roh!" By that expletive he means, "Here comes one last *Sing-A-Long* *Wiz of Oz* item!"

Yes, it was dog eat dog at the Castro Theatre last Thursday night for the **Toto Look-A-Like** Contest. In true San Francisco fashion, a boxer dressed in drag

claimed the grand prize. **Bella** (nom de nuit **Toto-ly Boxer**), dressed by **Bella DeBall Doggie Drag** and escorted by **Anita Cocktail** and **Sharon Boggs**, ruled the roost, besting the more traditional Toto wannabes. The contest, hosted by **Jan Wahl** and **Connie Champagne**, was judged by SF/SPCA President **Daniel Crain** and PAWS Executive Director **John Lipp**. Top dogs in the aud included SF Ballet Executive Director **Glenn McCoy** and Ballet board member **Susan Van Wagner**.

After the contest, tails wagged as the 10 or more real dogs in the audience barked along to their favorite Toto moments, and were whipped into a frenzy when the canine hero saved the day in the end. Grrrrr-eat.



SF/SPCA prez Daniel Crain, Bella, Anita Cocktail, and Sharon Boggs.

Imitation of lesbo

Last week's review of both versions of *Imitation of Life* now out in DVD brought a rosy reminiscence from **Hollywood Hank** about the stars of both the original and the remake. We asked Hank to work the gangles (gay angles) for us.

Well, the chic and charming **Claudette Colbert** was, of course, a lesbian, as is **Lana Turner**'s only child, **Cheryl Crane**. **Ross Hunter**, who produced many of **Douglas Sirk**'s films including the Turner version of *Imitation*, was gay. At one point in

the film, Turner thinks she may audition for the "new *Tennessee Williams* play." In the '40s, Williams briefly worked at MGM as a writer, and at one point feared having to write something for Lana, but she took a pregnancy leave, giving birth to Cheryl, and Williams soon left the studio.

Actress **Susan Kohner**, who plays the light-skinned black who passes for white in the remake, is the daughter of Mexican film star **Lupita Tovar** and Hollywood agent **Paul Kohner**. She quit movies in the early '60s despite winning two Golden Globes and getting an Oscar nomination, in order to marry men's clothing designer **John Weitz**. Their sons, **Chris** and **Paul Weitz**, are the guys who wrote the screenplays for *Antz* and *American Pie*.

Finally, the divinely hunky **John Gavin**, who, like Kohner, is half-Mexican, quit the movies, and later in life was named Ambassador to Mexico by Hollywood pal **Ronald Reagan**.

Well, for a discourse with no shortage of gangles, that one sure ended on a squangle (square angle)! But thanks for the good gossip gumbo, Hank.

Mag wheels

Our recent musings about *De-tails* magazine retreating into an explain-gay-to-straight mode brought several decided demurals from dedicated *Details* readers. Recent articles have included "Why Gay Men Shouldn't Want to Get Married" (basic reason: "Now everybody will be fat and miserable") and "Gay or Democratic Front-Runner?" in which an eerie convergence in style between gay blade and basic politician was noted ("Sleeves: Rolled up above the elbow. Shows off buff forearms." "Pleated Pants: Provides extra room to swing the bat.")

Contributors to the ambiguously-sexed glossy magazine ap-

next page ►

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Mild meets Wilde

'A Man of No Importance' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

New Conservatory Theatre Center has scored something of a coup, landing both Terrence McNally as a playwright in residence for a year and McNally's musical *A Man of No Importance* in its West Coast premiere.

It's a happy situation all around.

A Man of No Importance, seen at Lincoln Center in 2002, is what is sometimes called a "chamber musical." Despite a group of creative heavy-hitters, it is a purposefully intimate and unpretentious affair. New Conservatory originally planned to produce it as a staged concert, but the resources were found to let it grow into a full production with a six-piece orchestra. Sharply directed by George Quick, it's a significant accomplishment for the theater's gay-oriented *Pride* series.

A Man of No Importance isn't exactly a gay musical, though its central character is a deeply closeted middle-aged bus conductor in 1964 Dublin. Albert Finney played Alfie Byrne in the 1994 film on which the musical is based, and an excellent Arthur Scappaticci creates his own version of this man who can say with sad truth that "my hands are innocent of affection."

Alfie lives with his sister, who nags at him to find a wife, but his passions find their outlet in a theater troupe he runs in a church rec room. He is fixated on Oscar Wilde (who makes several dramatically clumsy spectral appearances), and he plans to follow up a production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Wilde's *Salome*. When the church cancels the production of the "dirty play," it sends Alfie on a course that will change his life.

McNally, best-known for such plays as *Frankie and Johnny* and *Master Class*, is also arguably the best adaptor-librettist working in musicals today. The books to *Ragtime*, *The Full Monty*, and *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* are all his, and his empathetic skills are on view again in *A Man of No Importance*. Songwriters Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, McNally's *Ragtime* collaborators, created a pleasantly Irish-tinged score that, if not exactly memorable, fits the tenor of the story that has a splash of fantasy in its happy ending.

Scappaticci, who has played larger-than-life Oscar Wilde in a one-man show, ironically makes a bigger impression as the smaller-than-life Alfie Byrne. Of course, Alfie only appears smaller than life, both to himself and to his



Diane Tasca and Arthur Scappaticci in *A Man*: fomenting desires inside.

community, and Scappaticci creates a believably unassuming shell and the fomenting desires inside.

Scappaticci also has a solid voice, and if not everyone in the ensemble cast shares that skill, there is still considerable success in giving agreeable life to the characters in Alfie's world. These include Shelley Lynn Johnson as Alfie's fussing sister, Levi Damione as the bus driver Alfie secretly loves, Rayna Hickman as an innocent girl Alfie casts as *Salome*, and Paul Plain as the Judas in Alfie's acting troupe.

The production's press night was pushed back a week, it was reported, to give the orchestra more time with the score, and the results under Barry Koron's musical direction are polished. Indeed, the entire production has a confident glow about it, eliciting finely tuned pleasures from a musical of modest intentions. ▼

A Man of No Importance will run through April 11 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcf.org.

Out There

◀ previous page

parently include one with a sexual preference even Out There was previously unfamiliar with, namely a monosexual. "Tony Hendra" releases his 10th book this spring," we learn on the contributor's page. It's "*Father Joe* (Random House), about his lifelong relationship with a Benedictine monk."

Then there's that photo of Mexican stud actor **Diego Luna** doing push-ups which has OT fantasizing feverishly about being his yoga mat. OK, *Details*, renew our complimentary subscription! ▼



Diego Luna gives good push-up.

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SF Ballet

◀ Arts cover

first time I saw Tomasson's SFB do *Theme and Variations*, as much for the way the late Denis de Coteau conducted the "Polonaise" as for the vibrant, buoyant dancing. When I told Tomasson I'd puddled up, he twinkled back, "So did I." Unfortunately, there have been better performances of *Serenade*. The best of Friday night was the women's corps and anything Tina LeBlanc did. Her "Russian girl" was airy, light, fast, her feet a blur, her arms and back exquisite and her filmy tutu floating unlike any of the other's. How does she do that?

I don't get Sarah Van Patten yet. She's well-schooled, but too stolid in both demeanor and physical presence, an all-too-corporate Angel. I'm not sure Mr. B. would have approved of Lorena Feijoo. Sweaty, her hair was coming loose long before it should, and her earthy movements make her seem like she's dropped in from another ballet. On the other hand, when the Dark Angel (Stephen Legate) abandons her, it's a real tragedy. Feijoo is always "in the moment," and nobody could possibly find Balanchine pale or cold (you still hear those comments) when she is dancing.

Divine ovation

However tentative some of *Serenade* may have seemed, *Apollo* not only struck exactly the right forceful, exuberant note, but was a huge audience hit. I haven't heard an ovation like that for a revival in years. For one thing, the orchestra, which struggled with Tchaikovsky's "Serenade," had no troubles with Stravinsky's score. (Why do I



Lloyd Englert

The SF Ballet women's corps shone in Balanchine's *Serenade*.

think the most rehearsal time went to staging and playing *Apollo*?) For another, SFB did the complete work, with the birthing prologue that Mr. B., always tinkering, cut in 1979.

The cast was as good as it gets these days; no invidious comparisons to former greats are needed. Gonzalo Garcia was born to play *Apollo*. Not only is he gorgeous as the slender, arrogant young god, but he's musical and technically secure enough to make *Apollo*'s coltish behavior seem as artistic as it is masculine. Van Patten (Calliope) and Vanessa Zahorian (Polyhymnia) were delightful as the auditioning Muses who don't please the disdainful god. Yuan Yuan Tan was even better as Terpsichore, the Muse of Dance who playfully and then tenderly initiates the young man to adult matters. Their pas de deux was breathtaking; anyone who still thinks Balanchine is not sexy must have a crude and unsatisfying love life.

After the unsettled *Serenade* (part of the problem was Pierre-Francois Vilanoba's unmusical waltz; he's too sluggish for a Bal-

anchine partner, and jerked Feijoo around like one of those plastic dancers on a cheap music-box) and the sublime *Apollo*, the dense *Four Temperaments* may have been too much. It's hard to concentrate after two hours of dance, and Hindemith's score doesn't make it any easier.

Still, the piece, which SFB has been dancing indifferently since 1974, was solidly staged for this occasion by Sandra Jennings and Gloria Govrin. Chief among the initial theme dancers were Leslie Young and Ruben Martin. It's ironic she's retiring just as she's found a super partner. Nicolas Blanc made good on previous hints of musical ability in the "Melancholic" variation. The score is made visible in his feet, arms and twisting body. Legate partnered ethereal Julie Diana in the "Sanguinic" variation, while Damian Smith scored in "Phlegmatic." Muriel Maffre spun dizzily through the final "Choleric" movement. By the end, we were all exhausted but satisfied. This big, brawny evening of dance obliterated once and for all the dry, chilly, lily-white Balanchine image. ▼

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Viva Liberace!

Visiting the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas

by David Batterson

The Liberace Museum stands proud as a peacock in a nondescript shopping center on Tropicana Avenue in Las Vegas — not quite the venue you'd expect. But once inside the museum, the glitz and glamour never stop.

You start in Building One, which houses pianos and luxury cars. Probably the most famous piano here is the rhinestone-covered Baldwin that was used at Liberace's last Radio City Music Hall performance.

In the second building, Liberace's master-suite furnishings from the Cloisters (his former Palm Springs home) are displayed. There are two beds, chairs, vases, paintings, crystal and a Gloria Vanderbilt collage. Another room showcases awards, trophies, proclamations and Liberace slot machines.

Building Two also has the incredible costumes and jewelry. Liberace's designers included Sy Devore, Frank Acuna, Frank Ortiz, Michael Travis and Anna Nateece. Devore did his tuxedos. Acuna, who designed bullfighter and swashbuckler costumes for movies, designed brocade suits. Some of the outfits took as long as a month to complete.

Travis raised the bar, creating new levels of flamboyance. After working for various stars, he worked exclusively for Liberace in the '80s. In a 1987 *People* magazine article, Travis said, "Liberace could perform all year-round and not repeat a costume."

Nateece smothered Liberace in fabulous furs over a period of 14 years. His fave was the black diamond mink, with 40,000 hand-sewn Austrian rhinestones. Nateece has also designed for Frank (La Cage) Marino in Las Vegas.

Is there a standout costume? They are all so spectacular that it's hard to pick one. Perhaps it might be the pink-feathered costume made of turkey feathers, rhinestones and butterflies. Liberace wore it in 1985 at Radio City, as he made his grand entrance from a Faberge egg.

The heaviest of the non-fur costumes weighs 204 lbs. It was created for Liberace's appearance at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans. Mardi Gras drag queens must have lined up and saluted!

Dolly Lehman has been a staff tour-guide at the museum for almost three years. Lehman said, "We have costume designers, professional designers that come here usually in a group, and they get no further than the entrance. They look around, and their mouths fall open, and the say, 'Oh, my God.'"

The tour-guide added, "If they are looking for inspiration, it's a lot to match up to. I don't think they make them like this anymore."

Button airs

Lehman discussed a circle of diamond buttons in a display



Inside the doors are a rhinestone-covered piano and some fabulous furs.

case. "They have diamonds on top of diamonds on top of platinum, and they spell out L-I-B-E-R-A-C-E. They belong on a black tuxedo." Liberace called his jeweler one day, Lehman explained, saying, "Make me some very expensive buttons. And they did. He put them on a black tuxedo, making it the most expensive costume in his whole collection."

She told another story about the IRS. "Liberace had a running battle with the IRS, to get a tax deduction for his costumes. They assumed he could wear his costumes anywhere, such as shopping or at restaurants. They didn't seem to fully understand."

"So he wore the purple suit [kept in a climate-controlled case] that had a purple cape and chinchilla fur-trim, and wore that to the IRS office, with all the jewelry he could get on his hands. And he was very polite."

Lehman explained how Liberace made his case: "He said, 'Gentlemen, I don't think you realize I wear costumes. I don't wear a black tuxedo anymore.' And they were just flabbergasted; they looked at him, and he said, 'I'd like to take a tax deduction on my costumes, if you don't mind.'"

She pointed to the black diamond mink, saying it was valued at \$750,000 in 1975. "Well, immediately they realized their mistake, and changed the code for all of us. If you wear a costume or uniform, it's tax-deductible."

The most valuable piece of bling-bling on display? Lehman said it's the ring presented by South Africa to commemorate his visit. It's 18k yellow gold encrusted with 62 diamonds. Lehman

said, "We don't discuss its value."

In 1976, Liberace wrote, "I would like to be remembered as a kindred and gentle soul, and as someone who made the world a little better place to live in because I lived in it. But I also hope that some of the beautiful things I have collected in my homes will be preserved."

Not only did that happen, but proceeds from the museum benefit the Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts, created by Liberace that year. More than \$4.5 million in scholarship grants have been awarded since that date. The majority of Liberace's estate went to the foundation, which he considered his greatest achievement.

The museum added a new façade a while back, with a wall-size picture of Liberace adorning the face of Building Two. The museum has been featured in many TV segments and photo shoots, including one by Italian *Vogue* magazine.

An afternoon musical tribute show featuring Wes Winters runs Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday at 1 p.m. It costs \$10. Reservations are required for that show: (800) 634-6787 or www.showtickets.com. Upcoming events include the 12th annual Liberace Play-A-Like Piano Competition, and the annual Liberace Fan Club reunion in May. Liberace would have been 85 on May 16 this year.

You can visit the gift shop and museum café without purchasing museum admission. There are lots of fun items, including a deluxe-edition reprint of Liberace's fourth book, *The Wonderful Private World of Liberace*.

The Liberace Museum is located at 1775 E. Tropicana Ave.; info at (702) 785-5595, www.liberace.org. A free shuttle picks up visitors at major strip hotels, and returns them afterwards. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. \$8 adults, and \$5 for seniors and students.

Don't miss it on your next trip to Las Vegas! And if you get a little thirsty after the tour, pop into Goodtimes, a gay bar located next to the museum. ▼

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Upcoming events include the Liberace Play-A-Like Piano Competition. ▼

Camel lights

'The Big Animal,' 'Hukkle' play the Castro

by David Lamble

The sight of a grown man walking through the snow with his best friend is, for me, the first moment of pure joy to come to the big screen in this still-young film year. In *The Big Animal*, Zygmunt Sawicki (actor/director Jerzy Stuh) is a bank clerk in a small Polish town. Sawicki's friend is a rather large camel, played by a circus animal

named Rubio. The camel arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep of Sawicki and his wife, Marysia (Anna Dymna), and immediately becomes a part of their family.

The film would be an unabashed delight if it merely documented the pure bliss the camel brings the childless couple. Meal-times take on a festive air with the camel's head filling the small window outside the Sawicki's kitchen table. When Sawicki is away at work, the camel and Marysia take

pleasure in keeping an eye on each other. At night, Sawicki plays his clarinet, and the camel makes a sound that, while not singing, represents the kind of pure, Zen-like contentment once sought by disciples of Allen Ginsberg.

The trouble in this paradise comes in the form of the local townspeople, who, at first welcoming the camel as a distraction from their humdrum lives, gradually come to resent the large beast and the confusion he brings. The schoolchildren go wild over the animal, shouting suggestions for his name: Fuzzy, Hunchback, and Pampoosh—all of which are rejected by Sawicki as beneath the dignity of his treasured friend.

The Big Animal is based on an early script by the late director Krzysztof Kieslowski which he adapted from a novel by Kazimierz Orlos. It's the kind of light-hearted allegory that Eastern European filmmakers frequently employed in the '60s and '70s to speak out against the thugish excesses of the idiots who inherited Stalin's empire.

Sawicki's colleagues at the bank and in the town orchestra are peeved when walking the camel makes him late for work and practice; the local tax-collector frets over whether the camel can be fairly assessed as a small horse; a freelance photographer keeps borrowing the beast as a prop to amuse kids at the town fair. Ultimately, the town's big hitters resent that Sawicki has a private attraction. One of the saddest scenes is the sight of Sawicki slinking away from a town meeting after refusing to honor the



Camel (Rubio), Marysia (Anna Dymna), Zygmunt Sawicki (Jerzy Stuh)

mayor's request to conscript his camel in a mini-zoo.

As Sawicki, Stuh revives the kind of humanist comedy that has languished on the endangered-cinema list since the retirement of Charlie Chaplin. Stuh is a Chaplin trapped in the oversized figure of a Peter Ustinov. While Chaplin would tweak the nose of a boorish boss or brutal cop and then run away, Stuh recognizes that a big man can't run very fast when he's holding a camel's harness. Ultimately, he achieves Chaplin's unique brand of poignancy with an ending that climaxes with the metaphorical reunion of man, woman and camel in a Warsaw zoo.

Sound scape

On the same bill at the Castro Theatre (March 26-April 1), *Hukkle* (Hungarian for hiccups) is a visual but especially an aural treat. The film begins as a barnyard *Koyaanisqatsi*, with an old man's hiccups accompanying the slithering grace of a giant snake. Director Gyorgy Palfi displays a David Lynch-like obsession for natural sounds. Those sounds



Hukkle is a visual, aural treat.

allow us to feel the texture of life in an agricultural society. Palfi's ear is for the sounds of work, the small daily tasks and products that sustain life. Real faces that defy makeovers are an added treat. You may ponder for almost all its 75-minute running time the nature of the film you're watching, but your ruminations will be largely unencumbered by subtleties, since Palfi presents spoken Hungarian as just another sound in his world. A pure but un sentimental slice of life in the raw. ▼

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Irish frisky

'Intermission' in Dublin

by David Lamble

The new Irish comedy *Intermission* begins in a Dublin version of Wal-Mart, where two clerks are stocking the shelves. The young woman tells her slightly incredulous male co-worker about a local crime wave. "They rape white women there."

"Who does?"

"I dunno. Everyone. Henry says some fella he knows was driving around there with his girlfriend, and they were stopped by the cops. One held the gun on him, and the other one raped her. And then they switched."

"They raped him, too?"

"No!"

"Oh, the coppers switched."

In the wacky world of *Intermission*, people who can barely imagine sex are suddenly confronted with kinky sex. A young man who asks a videoclerk to recommend straight porn of the vanilla variety is told with a sneer that maybe he should consider trying the homo flavors. Later, the same young man hops out of bed when he discovers that the older woman he picked up boasts a right cross that would do Mike Tyson proud.

At some point, virtually every relationship depicted in this film that features 11 subplots and 54 speaking parts turns into a fistfight. It's as if the lovesick couple

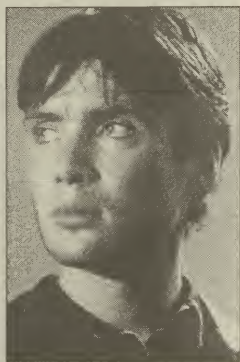
in a Norman Rockwell painting suddenly morphed into Marshall Mathers and Courtney Love. Nostalgia and future shock collide at warp speed.

The title refers to a time out in the film's core relationship between John (Cillian Murphy) and Deirdre (Kelly Macdonald). As John sheepishly admits to his workmate Oscar (David Wilmot), he walked out on Deirdre because he couldn't screw up the courage to take their affair to the next step.

Deirdre's sister Sally (Shirley Henderson) is also blocked. Sexually humiliated and dumped by a young rogue who absconded with her life savings, Sally finds herself stuck on a busstop bench with her widowed mother until the fickle finger of fate, a 10-year-old terrorist on a minibike, arrives to turn her world upside-down.

Chaos theory

Cops are not immune from the moral chaos and random violence that afflict this suburban outpost of the Irish capital. Colm Meaney, whose shepherd's pie of a face has graced many an Irish film requiring a loquacious rascal, does some of his best work as Jerry, a bullying narcotics cop who becomes the subject for a pretentious TV reporter's attempt at cinema vérité. A scene where Jerry is sucker-punched by a drug-dealer before cold-cocking "the lowlife" is a sharp satire on TV's sometimes



Sad-eyed dollface of Cillian Murphy

misguided efforts to get behind the news.

Jerry's nemesis is Lehigh, a mean, petty crook played with an insolent, sexy sizzle by Colin Farrell, who reverts to an almost incomprehensible Irish brogue. Farrell is awesome at shedding every vestige of leading-man likability in a weird blend of nihilism and proletarian charm.

It's a tribute to director John Crowley and writer Mark O'Rowe that the film's odd mix of loopy humor and criminal menace blends so seamlessly. This is exactly the film that could be shot in one of Geary Boulevard's feisty Irish sports bars. The look on Cillian Murphy's sad-eyed love-moon of a face when a boozy old broad tries to hit on him in a dance hall is worth the price of admission. ▼

Opens Friday.

BOOKS

Geography lessons

School's out with 'Geography Club' author Brent Hartinger

by Gregg Shapiro

Brent Hartinger is an important new voice in the realm of LGBT Young Adult literature. His debut novel *Geography Club* (Harper Tempest), about a group of students who secretly form a Gay/Straight Alliance club in a high school, has been nominated for a Lambda Literary Award. His second young adult novel, *The Last Chance Texaco* (Harper Tempest), set in a group home, doesn't have any gay characters, but it is about the outsider experience.

Geography Club was named as one of *Book List's* Top 10 first young-adult novels, and a *Book Sense* 76 summer pick, which meant it was featured in all the independent bookstores, the first time they'd featured a gay children's book.

Brent Hartinger: Julie Ann Peters [*Keeping You a Secret*] and I were both featured this summer. An interesting thing about the Lammy category [for both Hartinger and Peters] Children/YA [Young Adult]: You'll notice there are no children's books, they're all YA. That's because it was such a strong year for lesbian and gay young-adult books. I really think that speaks to there being something in the air. David [Levithan], Alex [Sanchez] and Julie, all of our books have done better than was expected. In Alex's and my case, they were extremely hard to get published because people said there was no market for a book about gay teenagers.

Gregg Shapiro: *Annie on my Mind* author Nancy Garden, who may be the best-known young-adult novelist writing on LGBT themes, has just published a brand-new children's book. There are other young-adult novelists, such as Jackie Woodson [*Autobiography of a Family Photo*] and Francesca Lia Block [*Weetzie Bat*], who have also been paving the way.

Simon & Schuster pushed [Sanchez's] *Rainbow Boys*, and it was very well-received and got a lot of media attention. This all happened just as I sold my book, so I was pulling my hair and becoming frustrated. But Alex is a great guy, and I like the book a lot. I was a little annoyed that my book was not the first, but if it had to be anybody, I'm glad it was Alex. He just legitimized the whole industry.

I hope that there aren't a bunch of horrible rip-off books [coming], but if there are, "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." I think there are still plenty of gay teen stories yet to tell. I just hope that publishers don't rush out a bunch of books that are lower quality because they think they can sell them. We've got a good little thing going here, and I don't want it to be diluted with a bunch of crap!

I understand there's at least one *Geography Club* sequel, *The Order of the Poison Oak*, to come.

I turned in the sequel this fall, and both my editor and the publisher are very pleased with it—in fact, so pleased that they want to do a third book. We're talking a publication date of 2007. When I sat down to write the sequel, I'd forgotten how much I liked the characters, so I'm more than



Hartinger: 'I think there are still plenty of gay teen stories yet to tell.'

happy to do that.

How much of you can be found in your character Russel Middlebrook?

Quite a bit. I say on my website, "He acts like me, thinks like me, and looks like me. Or at least the way I looked in high school." I like him a lot, but he's not me exactly. There's always a bit of distance between you and your character. That said, it's a pretty autobiographical character. Had the reviews said, "I like the book, but the main character is such a jerk!" it would have been hard not to take, personally. Fortunately, people responded quite favorably to him.

I didn't get invited to any schools with *Geography Club*. *The Last Chance Texaco* has been out for a week, and I've been invited to six schools. I think that speaks to the fact that nobody wants to touch the gay thing. I understand that. I don't want to get any teachers in trouble. I spoke to a lot of gay youth groups, some civic groups and at PFLAG meetings. I've spoken at several conferences, and I have five more conferences booked this year. I'm not an extrovert, and I have been pleasantly surprised by how wonderful and receptive the audiences have been. Of course, the people who come are those who have responded to it in some way. That and the e-mail have been the best parts of the whole publishing experience. I've also met with a few teenage book clubs, and I've really enjoyed the conversation because they can speak directly to what's going on in high schools today.

Russel, Min, Kevin and the other *Geography Club* characters come to life in the stage adaptation of the book.

We were approached right after the book came out by the agent who represented a book called *Holes*, which was turned into a stage play and later into a movie. So I adapted *Geography Club* into a play, and was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was to adapt. I think it's because in the young-adult genre, the books are shorter, they're more spare. Typically, I write from a three-act structure anyway. It's been wonderful to see the characters come to life in the form of actors, who bring a new dimension.

The Last Chance Texaco is set in

uation it was. There was so much going on. I was fascinated by the reasons why this eccentric group of counselors ended up choosing to work in foster care. Then, the children had really interesting, sometimes disturbing stories as to how they ended up there. That's the writer's job: to look around, experience interesting things, then transform them into an entertaining, hopefully thought-provoking project of some sort. ▼

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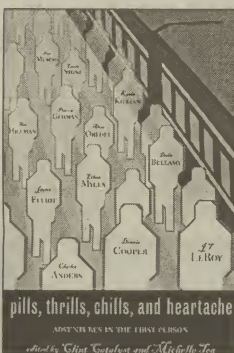
Tea & Catalyst

Rehab Rx: 'pills, thrills, chills, & heartache'

by Mark Mardon

Every so often a generational tide turns and nearly sweeps you off your feet. It's happening now in a big way all across San Francisco's literary landscape. Be alert, because some of the strongest rip tides are occurring in the heart of the queer community.

A big trophy in hosting queer-lit readings should go to Michelle Tea (*Valencia; The Chelsea Whistle*) and her LA-based club-scene partner in hipness, Clint Catalyst. In early March, they put on a memorable literary soirée in the jam-packed basement of City Lights Bookstore in North Beach. There, editors Tea and Catalyst presided over the public birthing of their new anthology, *pills, thrills, chills, and heartache: adventures in the first person* (Alyson Books), a hefty 366 pages packed with tales of personal confession that aptly characterize the queer generation's urban zeitgeist: it's hangover city!



Tea and Catalyst invited several contributors to read, and so many readers and writers packed the room that the absence of elder statespersons Dennis Cooper, Kevin Killian and Dodie Bellamy (all of whom contributed pieces) hardly dimmed the proceedings. The young set was amply represented, minus shy J.T. LeRoy of the novel *Sarah* fame, who was present in spirit as author of "When to Be a Girl," the volume's powerful closing piece. Reading in the flesh were Tara Jepsen, Thea Hillman, Trebor Healey, Horehound Stillpoint, Alvin Orloff, Ali Liebegott, Jan Richman, Shawna Kenney, Ricky Lee, Jackie Strano, Don Baird and Eileen Myles. Catalyst and Tea joined in with their own words. Allen Ginsberg would have been proud.

"Everyone knows that apathy and bitterness are givens in suburban monotony," writes Sara Seiberg in "Twelve (Other) Easy Steps to God." "What is there to rebel against?"

For most of the readers, that seemed to be the question of the night. How about booze and drugs? Does that work for you?

"My meth addiction had reached new, sundry, and secretive lows," writes Clint Catalyst in "Friend or Faux: An Excerpt from Turnskin." "The collective disgust of my associates only fueled my despair, hence my intake. Filip hated me on it because I was acerbic, impatient. Shawna and Z hated me on it because I was irrational, egotistical. Irresponsible — no longer to be depended upon at the club, regardless how small the task."

A naked urban booziness



Anthology editors Clint Catalyst and Michelle Tea hosted a queer reading.

crops up in Michelle Tea's work. In "Paris: A Lie," she writes, "Often I have watched dear friends plunge into extreme boozy sloppiness, losing all sense of space, lurching with slack faces and wet mouths, puking, falling, falling into their puke. Often I have watched this and sent a tiny prayer of thanks to Bacchus or Dionysus — whatever big holy goat-guy ruled the world of the

ing for the Beats," Ewert comes clean about being a literary whore, and obviously he's an expert at the trade. Not only did Ewert meet the late, great Ginsberg, he seduced him with the line: "Hello Mr. Ginsberg, my name is Mark Ewert, and I'd like to make you a breakfast, lunch, or dinner sometime." From there it was on to doing private naked Butch dances for poet daddy and

These tales of personal confession aptly characterize the queer generation's urban zeitgeist.

drunken. I would pray, thank You Sinky Hairy Holy Horned Wino, for making me simply sleepy, too sleepy to heave the sloshing cup of suds to my mouth one more time."

Dirty laundry

This confession-as-therapy writing method pops up as well in Daniel Cartier's piece, "Every Time I See Me Falling," hitting close to home for gay men trapped in relationships with obsessive/compulsive types: "My most vivid memory of him is the day he checked all of our dirty towels for semen stains. He arrived home convinced that while he was away I had masturbated, and the thought of me doing this had driven him into a jealous frenzy. He wanted some answers, he said. He wanted to know who the fuck I thought about when I shot my load all over the place!"

"I had no answer. I just stood there, mute, not knowing what to say."

Not all in the book is rebellion or rehab writing, especially when it comes to playful young poet-chaser Mark Ewert, co-creator of the astrologically correct cartoon *Piki & Poko*. In the piece "Danc-

friends.

Another of my favorite writers is a bit on the older side, but she's deep in the culture of transgression and rebellion, and it shows. "Karaoke King" is rocker Jackie Strano's gritty tale of biker-chick passion: "She was fine! She walked right up to me and stuck out her hand and introduced herself. I kissed her hand and said something about getting dinner or something. We made it as far as my car. We fucked furiously for an hour. I had to get back upstairs and she had to get back home to her old man, some biker dude who supposedly had done time in Soledad Prison." If there's a tougher dyke out there than Strano, well, watch out you don't cross her path.

And then there are surprises that slap you in the face:

"I've wanted to fuck someone with Tourette's Syndrome ever since I can remember," writes Jan Richman in "Your Mouth Is Open." When she read this part at the City Lights reading, the head jerk she used was priceless. You knew she wasn't kidding, and suddenly a whole new world of sexual possibility unfolded. ▼

MUSIC

Dynamic duo

Cellist & pianist collaborate on debut CD

by Michael McDonagh

They say that God works in mysterious ways. That certainly seemed to be so when I zipped out of a Brooklyn subway station on a September evening in 2002, and saw a young musician carrying a white case. Was there a cello inside?

"Excuse me, but are you a cellist, and are you playing in Eos in Glass' *Galileo Galilei* at BAM [the Brooklyn Academy of Music], which I heard the other night?"

He looked sideways and said yes.

"Here's my card," I offered, and the cellist, Adam Grabois, produced his. He said, "I'm working on a new CD of cello and piano duets, and I'll send you a copy when it comes out." Then off he went to BAM's Opera House. The CD, in due course, arrived. Was it worth the wait? Yes.

Classical music is just as endangered as everything else these days, and if it's going to survive, you'd better do music that hasn't been played to death. Grabois and his pianist on this date, John Nauman, have picked three works by three great composers: Debussy, Rachmaninov and Beethoven. Though these aren't the bread-and-butter pieces you'd expect, they aren't esoteric, either. The cellist even founded his own label, Reflex Editions, to launch this, his first CD.

Nauman and Grabois' credentials are top-drawer. The pianist held a Van Cliburn Scholarship at New York's Juilliard School, and studied piano with the revered Adele Marcus. Nauman's won many honors, and recently played a solo recital at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Grabois studied with David Finckel of the Emerson String Quartet, who became his mentor. Currently he plays with the New York Chamber Soloists and Solisti New York. Something very important happened when he was 11: he went to Paris to study at the Lycee Henri



John Nauman, pianist, and Adam Grabois, cellist, play with passion.

IV for a year. Guess what? He caught the French bug, and, thankfully, he's never been cured of it.

That kind of insider knowledge certainly helps when you're playing something as quintessentially French as Debussy's Sonata for Cello and Piano in D (1915), the first of three pieces he composed *pour divers instruments* before his death from cancer in 1918. The piece requires a heightened sensibility as well as an enormous facility with rhythm, phrasing, articulation and timbre, and Grabois is well-nigh miraculous in all departments. Nauman's playing is equally responsive and subtle. The great Italian poet Eugenio Montale's description of poetry as "that which contrives to elude the poet" could certainly be applied to this mercurial piece.

Immaculate conception

Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata in G couldn't be more different. It's grand in every way. But you'd expect that from an artist as expansive as this composer, who was also a great pianist. Grabois and Nauman's playing is appropriately big-boned, highly expressive and beautifully balanced. Nauman's octaves have enormous

drive, his passagework immaculate. Grabois' part is in a way more modest, but just as imposing, especially in the bring-down-the-house Allegro Scherzando and Andante, which the cellist projects with passion and verve.

Beethoven's 1801 *Seven Variations* on 'Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen' from Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte* is the closest thing to standard rep here. The duet Beethoven sets is taken from the end of Act I Scene 2 of the opera, where Pamina and Papageno praise marriage as serving God's divinity. Mozart's opera was one of the finest fruits of the Enlightenment, and could also be seen as a statement of his personal enlightenment. Its subject is nobility of spirit, which is something we could all use a little of today. Grabois and Nauman's style here is faultless: utterly pellucid and unerringly shaped. Their partnering here and throughout is *non pareil*. We're obviously in the presence of two strong personalities who get along and are mutually supportive at every turn. Isn't that what life is all about? ▼

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Call him crazy

by Robert Julian

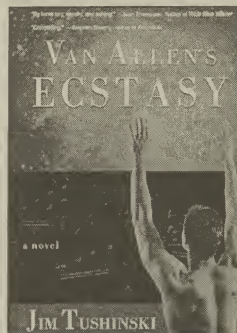
Van Allen's *Ecstasy* by Jim Tushinski (Harrington Park Press, \$16.95)

Michael Van Allen is one of three children born to a talented artist and a concert pianist. His brother Karl is a handsome, talented, sensitive heterosexual, and his sister Sara is a celebrated writer. Twenty-nine-year-old Michael clerks in a law office and shares an apartment with his lover Paul. Michael frets, obsesses, and has a nervous breakdown at one of his father's concerts. In the gay vernacular, one might say that Michael is not a well woman.

In the novel *Van Allen's Ecstasy*, author Jim Tushinski elects to tell Michael's story in reverse chronological order, in the same style employed by Christopher Nolan for his screenplay *Memento*. At the beginning of the novel, Michael is discharged from a mental institution into residential care at his

parents' home. Tushinski, employing a first-person narrative, describes the world through Michael's eyes as he rediscovers his life, one day — one person — at a time. He must reassemble events leading up to his mental breakdown in bits and pieces with help from his family and his psychiatrist.

But this ambitious approach unfortunately falls flat; Tushinski's prose plods along with an obsessive self-consciousness. In *Van Allen's Ecstasy*, the author seems unable to see past the trees to give the reader an engaging overview of the forest. Michael's mental gymnastics do not illuminate his character or the character of his family members. His parents and siblings are broadly drawn stereotypes, and his lover, Paul, remains an enigma. Tushinski may be hamstrung by his choice to hand over first-person narration to a character who has little insight into himself, his condition, or the circumstances that caused his psychotic episode. Michael has lots of feel-



ings and attitude, but he displays little in the way of understanding.

Michael Van Allen's mental breakdown is full of self-important angst and anger, but his character, like most characters in this novel, simply isn't very likable. *Van Allen's Ecstasy*, despite its flights of fancy and detailed interior monologue, becomes a tedious, almost unreadable work. ▼

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Shock and awe, one year later

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The first anniversary of the US war on Iraq came at week's end with appropriately subdued TV coverage. There was the mid-day self-congratulatory speech by President Bush — networks pre-empted soaps, but not March Madness basketball. He declared with the same facility and smirk he used 10 months ago to insist the war was over (tell that to the 430 American men and women killed since, and the 2,600 wounded) that the US invasion of Iraq has been the "most successful" war in US history. Since most historians would agree that war and success are mutually exclusive terms, Bush's speech could best be described as TV photo op meets performance piece. The Bush Administration's embedded arrogance precludes their comprehending that merely stating something doesn't make it true.

The President made another televised stop: to Walter Reed Hospital, to see some wounded veterans. After that visit (his first — Bush is the first president in US history to eschew both greeting the returning dead and their families and visiting the wounded), Bush told TV reporters that it was an uplifting experience, not usually what people say after visiting amputees and burn victims in their 20s.

The network anchors were all in Iraq reporting on the differences one year later. ABC gave the most representative and cynical reportage. Peter Jennings was outside the Hotel Lebanon when it was bombed, and for only the second time in his career (the first being 9/11), he was visibly moved by the carnage and mayhem, which may have explained some of his later reportage. ABC was

the only network to report on the protest by Arab journalists during Secretary of State Colin Powell's surprise visit to Baghdad March 19. The journalists were protesting the killing of two Arab reporters the previous day, by US troops. Powell refused comment on the deaths.

ABC had the best coverage overall because it was the most seemingly objective, noting the continued upheaval in Iraq, the daily killings of both Iraqis and coalition forces, the huge number of Iraqis who have been killed and wounded, and Pentagon sources repeatedly saying that they "don't keep track of civilian deaths or injuries." ABC also focused much of its attention on the evening news all week, as well as on *Nightline*, on dead and wounded Americans. The March 19 episode of *Nightline* featured Ward 57 at Walter Reed Hospital, where Vietnam War amputees counsel Iraq War amputees. The heartbreaking stories were not, as Bush claimed, uplifting. Rather, they were shocking and outrageous.

ABC also presented, on its late-night *World News Now*, Spanish TV news of the terrorist bombings in Madrid last week. Spaniards immediately took to the streets in protest. Then they voted out the Iraq-War-supporting administration. The first decision by the new Socialist government: Pull out of Iraq. The bombings in Madrid brought four million people into the streets the next day. How many 19-year-old amputees will it take for Americans to do the same?

Mystery dates

Is it any wonder that we fled to more mindless TV, like Fox's omigod new reality series, *Playing It Straight*? OK, new guilty pleasure. The premise is *Bachelorette*

with a twist: some of the guys are gay. It's so disgusting we love it. Last week's show had one contestant practically pissing himself when he found out another, Ed, was gay. His queeny run through the house yelling Ed was gay was a nelly moment, for sure. This must be what the girls are watching now that *Sex in the City* is over.

Speaking of sex in the city, we were totally mesmerized by Courtney Love on David Letterman last week. She, too, is a guilty pleasure, between her micro miniskirts and her microphone fellatio, and we liked her showing her breasts repeatedly to flaunt the FCC rulings. Her new album is fantastic, and her musical number on Letterman was supersexy. But can she remember she has a kid and might want to take it down a notch since she's already on probation?

Tabloid TV shows are still feeding off the aftermath (she tossed a microphone stand at a fan at a gig after the Letterman show and was arrested, again). Extra now has a little cuckoo-clock with Love's face on it that runs on the screen when it does stories on her, which we find a bit offensive. The good news about the Love story: it bumped Whitney Houston's rehab and hubby Bobby Brown's incarceration out of the tabloids for a few minutes. Speaking of people who forget they have children. And queers can't because —

One of last week's best TV stories: Barbara Walters' fabulous interview with Kelli Carpenter (Mrs. Rosie O'Donnell). The delightful Mrs. O'Donnell (we must say for the record that we don't approve of femme lesbians taking their butch wives' last names any more than we approve of straight women taking their husbands') told the tale of her Louisiana upbringing in a born-again Christian home, her coming-out party (as a debutante), the intervention her family did to try to get her to go straight, their final acceptance of her relationship with Rosie, and the marriage in SE. It might have been the most wonderful example of true family values we've ever witnessed on TV. Not only is Carpenter adorable, she's truly

nice and committed to Rosie and their four children. Unpretentious, open about her life without being nauseatingly confessional, and totally committed to queer civil rights, Kelli is the dream dyke.

Another uplifting queer TV moment was last Thursday night's appearance on Conan O'Brien of Jason West, the 26-year-old mayor of New Paltz, New York who was

arrested two weeks ago for performing queer marriages in that town of 30,000. West isn't queer, though he's cute, if sartorially impaired, and told a story about how one

gay male couple he married insisted he get a new suit be-

fore he went on TV. He explained why it was important to give queers the same options as straights, and noted that since he was arrested (he said the sentence was up to 20 years, but felt certain he wouldn't get that), churches and synagogues in New Paltz have continued to marry queers. Hundreds of supporters, queer and straight, turned out for his arraignment. Can we clone him?

Someone else we would like to clone is Eden Riegel, who has spent several years now creating the best lesbian character on TV and the only queer character on daytime. This week, she got the industry accolade she deserves when she was nominated for an Emmy Award for her nuanced and deeply moving portrayal of Bianca Montgomery on *All My Children*.

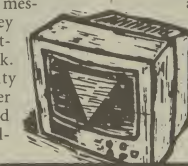
Now Bianca is up against another threat: someone wants to steal her baby. As if the girl hasn't

gone through enough in the last year. *Soap Opera Digest* gave her story and portrayal their Editor's Choice Award in the March 29 issue. Bianca and Lena were caught in a clinch last week by Maggie, who is clearly in love with Bianca herself, as she intimated to Jamie, her fuckbuddy. But what will happen to B&L's relationship now that Olga Sosnovska (Lena) is leaving the show for BBC's *M1*? AMC won't comment on whether the show will recast Lena or write out her character. The chemistry between Lena and Bianca has been great. We hope the show will recast and continue the triangle they have set up between Bianca, Lena and Maggie.

Speaking of lesbian love triangles, if you haven't seen Showtime's *The L Word*, why not? It's true, all the women are slender, and most are excessively pretty. But the show is smart, well-written, well-acted and looks (depressingly) realistic to us, with its nonstop dyke drama and emotionally unavailable women. Plus, any show that has Pam Grier and Ozzie Davis as the parents of Jennifer Beals is worth watching. Yet another reason to spring for cable.

If you don't have cable, you still have three more weeks of the four-part series *The D.A.*, starring Steven Webber (*Wings*), I.K. Simmons and a few other notables: fast-paced, superbly acted and with a bang-up story. Tomorrow night's episode is queer-themed. VCR alert: Friday nights on ABC.

Finally, after this week's events and those of the last four years, we are really looking forward to a new reality TV series come November, *Extreme Makeover: White House Edition*. Stay tuned. ▼



Lavender Tube

Killing queers

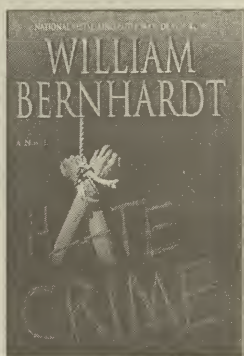
by Robert Julian

Hate Crime by William Bernhardt; Ballantine, \$25.95

Author William Bernhardt is a former trial attorney who lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with his wife and three children. If I haven't already lost you, I would like to add that Bernhardt writes genre crime novels featuring a crusading defense attorney, Ben Kincaid, who also happens to live and work in Tulsa. Bernhardt's latest opus is *Hate Crime*. It begins with a one-chapter Tulsa kidnapping before it abruptly segues to the grisly beating death of a gay bartender in Chicago. These seemingly unrelated events are eventually tied together in the end.

Bernhardt's soon-dead protagonist, Tony Barovick, is explained posthumously through his journals, which appear, verbatim, at sporadic intervals throughout the book. This literary device seems like the author's attempt to shape an out-of-control narrative into something that vaguely resembles a coherent plot. Bernhardt is fond of subplots and supporting characters, but he is better at tying together the former than he is at illuminating the latter. *Hate Crime* is certainly convoluted, but it is not particularly compelling.

The dead bartender was a swell guy; cops and attorney are all politically correct; and the murderer



gets caught in the end. A couple of heterosexual romances are also thrown in, just to stir up the mix. All this hail-fellow-well-met exposition is built upon the brutal slaughter of a gay man, described in great detail. Tony is punned mercilessly by two fag-bashers, jolted repeatedly with a stun gun, kicked in the head, and finally strangled to death. Just before he is strangled, both of his legs are broken, slowly, one at a time. No amount of political correctness can offset the feeling of revulsion I get from the thought of a genre novelist using this sort of event as the hook for his latest *Law & Order*/C.S.I./S.V.U. knockoff.

Author Bernhardt would probably like to be working at the same level as John Grisham. But he is not. *Caveat emptor*. ▼

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VIDEO

Love, friendship, remembrance

'Peyton Place,' out on DVD, puts time in a bottle

by Matthew Kennedy

We all know that *Peyton Place* is a fictional New Hampshire town where all sorts of sins are committed behind whitewashed picket fences. We might know that it began as a hugely popular smutty novel by hard-drinking Grace Metalious, who grew up in New England under the cloud of overextended Puritanism. Today, *Peyton Place* hardly scandalizes, but its sociology is breathtaking.

Peyton Place the book was sanitized for the big screen and released in 1957 in velvety rich DeLuxe Color and widescreen CinemaScope. Like its contemporaries *Picnic* and *Rebel Without a Cause*, it occupies itself with the growing chasm between parents and children. It was also made at a time when Hollywood was consti-

tutionally unable to cast teenagers as teenagers. The local high school is filled with oversized 20something playing at adolescence, but *Peyton Place* is a town filled with instantly recognizable, sympathetic characters worthy of 156 minutes of our time.

We're given an emotionally sumptuous affair, involving from the credits as weepy strings play over aerial shots of picture postcard New England. Leading the story is flouncy Lana Turner as Constance MacKenzie, an arcane blond apparition who is frankly terrified of her daughter's newfound desire to kiss boys. Diane Varsi, she of the short-fused career, is daughter Alison, a romantic type prone to playing classical music full blast and waxing on fantasies of literary glory. Lloyd Nolan is the stolid town doctor, and Lee Philips is the mundanely handsome, morally resolute

school principal who sets it upon himself to thaw Turner after her long winter of sexual hibernation.

Young Russ Tamblyn plays a nerdy good boy whose notions about sex have been retarded by his gargoyles mother. He's headed for *Boys in the Band* by way of *Tea and Sympathy* unless some good girl (enter Varsi) can lead him down the path to righteous heterosexual normalcy. Hope Lange comes quite literally from the wrong side of the tracks, where she fights off the advances of her drunken stepfather (Arthur Kennedy), who is just one more point of misery in the life of her long-suffering mother (Betty Field). Let us not forget the beloved teacher-spinster (Mildred Dunnock), the red-dressed tramp (Terry Moore), or her studly boyfriend (Barry Coe), who learns to stand up against his controlling father (Leon Ames). We're even

treated to teen idol *du jour* David Nelson as Lange's boyfriend.

Society split

Peyton Place was a box-office bonanza, but there are pleasures in watching it today that were unimagined in 1957. With eerie accuracy, it intimated the upcoming split in American society begat by Vietnam, rock 'n' roll, and a new drug culture. You can hear the future calling in *Peyton Place*, with generation gap, sexual revolution, women's liberation, and even David Lynch being whispered right around the corner. Indeed, the film swims in a '50s cocktail of repressed desires, incest, suicide, illegitimacy, murder, girls who put out and girls who just tease, rape, skinnydipping (!) and the unspoken small-town conspiracy that keeps everything hidden. It even tackles the question of sex education, with Turner offering an obsolete view while Philips represents the voice of a new liberalism soon to blow through America.

Peyton Place is set in the '40s, before and after the war, yet it is a quintessential '50s product. Even Turner's old-fashioned acting contrasts with the more naturalistic Varsi, Tamblyn and Lange. Did any movie capture the uneasy redefinition of America between World War II and Vietnam better than this one?

All this enthusiasm isn't meant to suggest that *Peyton Place* belongs on a short list of great movies. It's too glossy to be taken entirely seriously. Director Mark Robson doesn't have the command of Douglas Sirk, who excelled in the same genre with saturated melodramas. Robson was not as exacting with color, light, space, and architecture as was Sirk, so there are fewer visual symbols to contemplate.

Peyton Place benefited immeasurably from Twentieth Century-Fox's lavish commitment of money and talent. Franz Waxman's score is full and ripe; at times it sounds like a symphony that happens to be accompanied by a film. Art direction and costumes reflect the story and characters tastefully, and cinematographer William Mellor was deservedly Oscar-nominated, but



Lana Turner: a blond apparition

the cast makes the difference. Five actors were nominated: Lange, Varsi, Kennedy, Tamblyn and Turner. Kennedy is appropriately repugnant, and Tamblyn is like a puppy yearning to be trained. Lange is sweet and lovely, and grows impressively distraught during the high-strung courtroom scenes. Turner works hard, straining to reach heights of dramatic greatness that never come. She's always watchable, and even her throwaway moments are endearingly overstated. When she catches her daughter and friends "neckin'" in the living room, she throws on the lightswitch like she's lifting heavy machinery.

The transfer to DVD is near perfect, with Tamblyn and Moore providing commentary. As a bonus, American Movie Classics' *Backstory: Peyton Place* offers historical context for this most sensational of potboilers. There were so many tantalizing subplots and cross-purposes that a sequel was inevitable. 1961's horrid *Return to Peyton Place* was saved by Mary Astor as one of the all-time great self-appointed small-town arbiters of public morality. Still we wanted more, so along came a TV series. *Peyton Place* ran from 1964-69, and gained fame as the launching pad for Mia Farrow and Ryan O'Neal. But it's the original movie that endures as a top-flight guilty pleasure — nostalgic, vivid, complex, and unforgettable. ▼

Spalding Gray

◀ Arts cover

director/'devil in my ear') Ivan, who said, 'Spalding, don't let her get the upper-hand, man. I mean, after all, how many straight, single men your age are there left in New York City anyway?'

The Killing Fields was shot in Thailand, and, like many members of the cast and crew, Gray sought his "perfect moment" in the company of female Thai prostitutes. But unlike many straight Western sex tourists, he didn't feel the need to bash the Thais for giving him a guilt-free good time.

"Some say that the Thais are the nicest people that money can buy, because they like to have fun. They know how to have fun, and, perhaps due to their very permissive strain of Buddhism, they don't have to suffer for it after they have it."

Frank talk

My friend Dan Turner experienced another side of Spalding Gray, who frequently hosted workshops in which he taught the art of self-revelation. Turner was an accomplished theatrical composer, co-author of three musicals with writer Dan Curzon, who had struck up professional relationships with the likes of Tennessee Williams and Stephen Sondheim. Turner was also, on May 20, 1989, a long-term AIDS survivor with only a year to live.

After telling the story of his 7-year battle to stay alive, Turner asked Gray, "How is it that you're a straight man and yet you're sensitive?"

This is how Gray responded to Turner and a large audience whose members ricocheted between moments of rapt attention, and bursts of nervous laughter.

"I would say that I'm bisexual, but I didn't practice it. I think all so-called straight men are, everyone has a degree of bisexuality going, and I'm very aware certainly of the feminine aspect of myself, and it's not threatening to me."

He then launched into a story about an invitation to a basketball playoff game [NY Knicks vs. Chicago Bulls] by the then-director of Lincoln Center. "Greg isn't the most butch guy going. Although I don't know what his sex life is like, I would say he is rather

asexual in the sense of directing it towards his worklife, like Yassir Arafat and Jackie Onassis.

"I hadn't been amongst men like [those] at that game in a long time. They were clearly not admitting to the feminine aspect in themselves. [Greg and I] were quite drunk, and I had to go to the men's room. It overflowed from too much beer piss. There's a horrible cry going up now that is really quite terrifying ... some kind of caveman ooga, ooga. They're coming up behind me, and I'm worried that my hips are swaying too much. I said [to myself], 'I better walk tough now, if I'm ever going to walk tough.' I was so self-conscious of a certain languid gait that I chose to be in the theatre world because it was more tolerant of that."

"One of them tapped me on the shoulder. He had seen my HBO special, and he yelled, 'Hey, you're the asshole who bought that house in the Catskills! Fucking good show!' Then he goes, 'We'd better win today, right!' I didn't care who won. I was enjoying the Bulls as much as the Knicks. I said, 'Win, oh, yeah.' I was so happy to be able to play it that I passed."

Young adult

Gray then bared his soul about a time when both his professional and personal lives were just coming into focus. Arriving in New York in 1967, by '75 he had co-founded the Wooster Group, where with Elizabeth LeCompte he created a trilogy of plays about his Rhode Island childhood. His adult sex life, meanwhile, was still a work in progress.

"I had some very gratifying homosexual experiences, but there were not a lot of them, and I felt I had to go one way or the other. I was not feeling the possibility of love from men. It was certainly good sex and good fantasy, because it was, for me, completion of a certain narcissistic fantasy of having myself. But that wasn't the route I wanted to take. I didn't think it would lead to intimacy. I think it was simply an experiment at the time."

Gray describes "an intense time" in Amsterdam, "in the baths there. It really helped exasperate a minor nervous breakdown. That triggered it, because I felt I had to make a decision. When I got back to New York, I started going to some of the baths to see if I could

be interested in it, and I wasn't. It didn't take. It took on a foreign shore, in Amsterdam, with the distance. I know both sides of myself that way."

Speaking, almost performing, to an audience of San Franciscans caught up in the worst days of the epidemic, and staring into the eyes of a man who would be dead in a year, Gray really let his guard down.

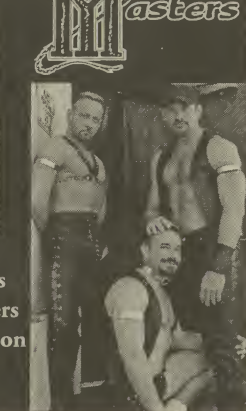
"I feel extremely identified with AIDS, because I could have taken that route or [explored] it more. That was 1976, so I'm not real worried about it. I was tested in Australia in 1985. I was talking in front of a large group, and there was a [physician] waiting outside the door, and he said, 'I don't understand why you feel you should be afraid of AIDS, let me give you the test for free.' I would never have gone with any doctor but him. I've never felt such love from a doctor. It was a real gift."

Gray would break up with Shafransky, eventually marrying Kathleen Russo. The couple had two young sons. They accompanied their dad to a screening of *Big Fish*, Tim Burton's film about the relationship of a son and his dying father, the night Gray disappeared. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Dangerous Families

Not only is Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore) one of the hottest young editors of queer writing going, s/he's easily the most entertaining and provocative and lovable and deplorable (if you're averse to bad-girl artist/activist antics). The flamboyant rag-drag celebrante novelist/editor-about-town has been hosting lit-bashes beginning with the launch of his first anthology, *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients* (Haworth). At the time, in April 2000, s/he was banking on his experience as callboy, stripper, body-worker, street hustler, phone sex operator and porn model. Then s/he became a seriously engaging novelist with *Pulling Taffy* (Suspect Thoughts Press) in 2003, emerging as one of the core voices of the New Queer Scene (or whatever you want to call it). When rowdy girl Mattilda hosts a literary gig, you get a wild romp.

Such was the case for the launch of *Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Surviving* (Harrington Park Press/Haworth; 2004). The packed event happened at the Main Library under the auspices of the James C. Hormel Lesbian and Gay Center, where *Dangerous Families* contributor Jim van Buskirk serves as director and a galvanizing force in the queer-lit community.

"Sometimes now when I look into a mirror," writes van Buskirk in "Body of Knowledge," "I see a strong, handsome face, one whose gaze I am able to hold. One I can imagine loving a little more, perhaps can even imagine letting be loved. Certainly not by my mother. But by another boy—I mean a man."

So succinctly he captures the deep-down feeling of so many damaged gay men. That thought—"certainly not by my mother"—kicks you in the gut because it tells all in an instant.

Families are dangerous places to grow up. In his introduction to the volume, Mattilda writes of the period in his life "when my father followed me down the street at night, hid behind the curtains with an ax, under the bed... His eyes as enormous as horses' eyes, peering in through the windows or staring at me from inside the walls, watching me from the ceiling. That look in his eyes: you are my prey."

Writing as therapy, as art, as rebellion, the anthology's contributors wring the heartbreak out of growing up queer or other in families that only made things worse, where nurturing was at a minimum and self-reliance/survival and ultimate escape and separation were paramount.

"My mother was born and died in poverty," writes Siobhan Brooks in "Confessions of a Ghetto Princess." "She made certain that this would not be my fate, and thus I was forbidden to do housework, since she worked as a maid. Instead I was closely watched and socialized to be very feminine and nonthreatening."

Siobhan reveals what so many struggling children feel when parents adhere to rigid, old-world values in a time and place they can barely comprehend, where violence is born of frustration and kids suffer irreparable damage. Her mother meant no harm, and that's the familiar tragedy. ▼



Erica Shuch and the ESP Project perform "All You Need" at Intersection for the Arts. See Thursday.

Eri

'Caesura' @ Dance Mission Theatre

NOVAntiqua presents "Caesura," a new evening-length work from Choreographer/Artistic Director Mark Franko, featuring special guest artist Brian Fisher, with the NOVAntiqua company: Cristina Aguirre, Damara Ganley and Juliette Neidish. The word "caesura" is defined as a cut, a formal break or stop, an interruption, the breathing place in the midst of the verse. For Franko, "caesura" is the moment that is experienced between breaths. It is borne of stillness and makes room for contemplation. Drawing inspiration from this notion, Franko has created a work that arcs from the small, intimate moments of private introspection to a world shattered by violent explosion. \$18 (\$13 student/senior). 8pm. Also Sat., March 27 (8pm) & Sun., March 28 (7pm). 3316-24th St. (at Mission). Tix: 415-564-3971.

'Guilty' @ The Stud

That's it, you're finished, you're going down—you're guilty as sin! Before they lock you up, get out and enjoy "Guilty," a down-and-dirty bastard pop rock electro hip-hop water party presented by DJs Adrian, The Mysterious D, and Suppositori Spelling, with DJ Mr. Anthony. Go-go Dancers, drink specials, CD giveaways. \$5. 10pm-3am. Every Friday. At The Stud, 9th and Harrison. Info: www.blue-period.com/guilty/

Secret Cock

@ 40th St.

Warehouse, Oakland

Pacific Northwest Skate/Rock Tour featuring Secret Cock (a classic-rock-inspired Boston genderqueer band) and Discharge Information System (cello/drums duo from Portland with ex-members of The Chase and Punky Bruiser). Oakland appearance with Tami Hart and Pom Pom Meltdown (from Portland). All ages. 8pm. 379 40th St. Warehouse (near MacArthur Bart), Oakland. Info: www.secretcock.com.

Sat

Eric DeLoria's 'Audition' @ JSC

Eric DeLoria presents *Audition*, an evening of songs and attitudes! Imagine you and 49 friends in a room with ten sexy, passionate, and demanding singers. Ever wanted to tell them what was really going on in your mind? Or maybe just wanted to shoot the piano-player? Well, get your Simon on and join in an evening

of defining what talent is, who's hot, and who's not. This audience-participation interactive evening is just what Dr. Real-TV ordered! With Ben Atal, Boston Blake, Ashia DeLaBastide, Edisol W. Dotson, Lance Fuller, Kristen Jones, Nick Kealey, Lisa Nelson, Justin Sadolan, and Shayne Troha. \$20. Limited engagements: 8pm. Sat., March 27, Sun., March 28, and Mon., March 29. Studio 2, Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Tix/Info: Phone: 415-431-4371; edelora@hotmail.com. Info/Wheelchair Access: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'POMO'

@ YBCA Forum

Kularts in association with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents "The 6th Annual POMO: the Post Modern American Pilipino Performance Project," highlighting the collision of the ancient with the present. Featuring the works of Ating Tao Drum Circle (20-member percussion ensemble), Michelle Bolong (sharing an intimate story of death, struggle, acceptance & rebirth), Jeremiah Tait Carreon (performs "Remember the Rhythm"), Malaya Timawa Dimapaal (offers "Farther than Earth, More than Water," a dialogue of sound, a conversation of selves), and Room to Improv (unscripted scenes and games). \$13 adv; \$15 door. 8pm. Also Sun., March 28 @ 3pm. YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St. Tix/Info: 415-239-0249; kularts.org

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits

@ The Center

Community Potluck hosted by Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS), a community-based organization offering culturally relevant activities for GLBT and Intersex Native Americans, their families and friends. Bring something to share—food, non-alcoholic drinks, a song, poem or raffle item. Traditional food especially welcome. Contact to confirm event. Check board upon entering for room number. A clean & sober event. 7-9pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5616; www.baaits.org

'Pulp'

@ Live Art Gallery

Opening reception/party: "Pulp," a showcase of works made on or using paper, by Sam Russell, Tom Fowler, René Capone, David Faulk, Michael Johnstone, Julio Martinez, Isabel Urbina and Mike Gosbee. Free. 6-10pm. Show runs thru April 11. 151 Potrero Ave. Info: René Capone, 254-3141; Tom Fowler, 621-5343.

Queer Swing @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs presents Queer Swing Classes. No partner or experience needed. 7pm basic swing lesson; 8pm swing lesson with

award-winning dancer Jonathan Bixby, a Lindy Hop Hall of Famer from Santa Barbara. 9pm-midnight dance party. \$10 (half off w/). SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 305-8242; www.queerjitterbugs.com

Je-sing Norman Eng

@ Green Gulch Farm

Je-Sing Norman Eng (ordained into the Order of Interbeing, Unified Buddhist Church, by Thich Nhat Hanh in 2003) is facilitating a day-long retreat on the Buddha's teachings and practices on "Love, Compassion, Joy and Equanimity" at Green Gulch Farm Zen Center (near Muir Beach in Marin County, carpools available). Limited to the first 40 persons, so sign-up soon. \$10-\$40 sliding donation (includes organic vegetarian lunch). 10am-5pm. Info: 415-865-2750. Register online at www.QSangha.org.

Other Cinema

@ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Old Films/New Remixes," a special 50th anniversary celebration of Kenneth Anger's "Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome" (starring Anais Nin, Curtis Harrington, & Marjorie Cameron). New, original sound track performed live by Kyron; collaborator Koyote frames the cinematic experience with a synchronous Thelemic Magickal ritual. Co-featured: Hans Grusel's *Krankenabinet's* live synthesized (re-)score of Chevalier's 1936 "Master Hands," a half-hour ode to the assembly line. Lots more. \$5. 8pm reception; 8:30 showtime. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia



NOVAntiqua Choreographer Mark Franko's "Caesura" catches its breath at Dance Mission Theatre. See Friday.



"Woman's Boot" 2002, acrylic on newspaper, by Tom Fowler, part of "Pulp" at Live Art Gallery. See Saturday.

St. Info: 824-3890; www.oth-er cinema.com

'Ha Bloody Ha' @ The Off-Market Theater

C.A.F.E. and Off Market Presents "Ha Bloody Ha," a live talk show hosted by comedian/writer Harmon Leon. Featuring new guests each week from the world of comedy, music, and film. \$10. 10pm. Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission (at Fifth Street). Tix/info: 415-896-6477; www.cafearts.com

Sun

Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera

@ Randall Museum

Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera presents George Frederic Handel's *Rinaldo*, a Baroque classic with English translation by Mr. Pippin. This concert style opera was Handel's first London opera. Hurriedly written mostly from arias and music he had previously composed, it is a spectacle of a love story with a fairy-tale-like ending. Based on an epic poem by Italian writer Torquato Tasso, *Rinaldo* describes the capture of Jerusalem from the Saracens by Christian armies during the First Crusade. In this selection, Armida, sorceress and lover of the Saracen king, threatens him after he acknowledges his love for the daughter of King Godfrey, a Christian. Featuring Elsiebeth Franks, Marcelle Dronkers, Jane Hammett, and Lee Strawn. \$30 adv; \$32 door; \$27 senior. 2pm. Tix: 415-972-8934; ticketweb.com. Randall Museum Theater. Info: pocketopera.org

DanceEvents

@ Lake Merritt Dance Center, Oakland

A new dance entertainment com-

pany, DanceEvents, is having a fabulous party to celebrate their launch. DanceEvents dancers were recently featured at the 2004 Academy of Friend Gala in San Francisco, where they performed a variety of Ballroom, Latin, and Club dances. Tonight's Main Event will be part fantastic dance party, part unique show, with a beginning dance lesson, professional performances in Ballroom, Latin, Swing, Salsa, Modern, and Hip Hop, live music from Let's Get West, a photo and painting art exhibit, a raffle, and much more. \$25 VIP ticket (includes admittance to pre-party from 12 to 1, with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Guests can meet and talk with the dancers of DanceEvents). \$12 general admission (good for the main party, from 1-5pm). 12 noon-5pm. Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Tix/info: 415-820-3979; www.danceevents4you.com (go to Contact DanceEvents).

'King Kaliente' @ Bench & Bar, Oakland

"King Kaliente," A Drag King contest. Butch/Femme Socials Meets Kaliente. Prizes awarded. Judges will be selected from the audience! Dancing, entertainment by Mama's Boyz, Mexican restaurant on site, drink specials at the bar, wheelchair accessible, plentiful street parking. \$5. 6-10pm; Contest starts 7pm sharp. Bench & Bar, 120-11th Street at Oak, Oakland. Info: mujeres2@lycos.com; www.kaliente.net

Gay/Lesbian Tennis Federation

@ Davies Tennis Stadium, Oakland

Come play some casual social doubles and learn more about the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation (GLTF) on Sunday March 28 12-3pm at the Davies Tennis Stadium in Oakland. Looking for new members. Location: Davies Tennis Stadium, 198 Oak Road, Oakland (580 East towards Hayward. Exit Grand Avenue. Turn Left at the 2nd light which is Lakeshore Ave. Stay on the right lane. Veer right when Lakeshore splits off to the right. Turn Left on Park Road, you will see signs to Davies Tennis Stadium. Info: marmac@aol.com

The MAN Auction

@ The Cherry Bar

Live auction of fun dates with some of SF's hottest gay men (and a few meowsexuals)! All dates are all-expense paid. Come out, drink, dance, and buy a guy's company for an evening. All to help people in our community with AIDS. DJ music, raffle prizes, dates with cute, fun and available men. Patron Tequila and Vox & Turli Vodka mixed drink specials. Brought to you by Paige Tuhey and Ned Howey in an effort to raise funds for AIDS Lifecycle3. \$5-\$50 cover (all proceeds go to the SF AIDS Foundation). 6:30-8:30PM (doors open at 5:30PM). 21+ w/d. The Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom St. @ 5th St. Info: 974-5906; www.thecherrybar.com. Info: Paige at: www.aidslifecycle.org/1631

Team Bear @ Chow



Classic-rock-inspired Boston genderqueer band **Secret Cock** and **Discharge Information System (DIS)** take part in the Pacific Northwest Skate/Rock Tour at 40th St. Warehouse, Oakland. See Friday

TeamBEAR (Bears Engaged Against Retroviruses) host a brunch at a fine local eatery. Chow will have a special TeamBEAR menu along with their regular brunch. TeamBEAR is a vehicle to leverage the gay bear community as much as possible to the advantage of the AIDS/LifeCycle events and to serve as a Witness for AIDS awareness and support within that same group. \$5 from any item on the insert goes to the team (highest price is \$13, including the donation). Please RSVP to Cal (cal-sanfran@aol.com) with the number of guests. 10am-1pm at Chow, 215 Church St. (at Market). Info: www.teambear.org.

Gay Volleyball @ Hamilton Gym

Gay volleyball happens every Sunday between 11am-1pm at Hamilton Gym on the corner of Geary/Steiner. Its not officially gay per say but 95 percent of the people who go are. More people needed to reach the ideal cap of 18 (36 with another net). That would be 6 teams. It's free. Open gym. Plenty of parking around. All levels of play. Info: Albert at masclatin@aol.com

Mon 29

'One Night Only Cabaret'

@ Club Fugazi

The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presents another special "One Night Only Cabaret" with company members from the combined casts of Disney's "The Lion King" and "Mamma Mia!" Enjoy an intimate, outrageous evening of song, dance and comedy benefiting The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Special guest star: Chicago cabaret artist Amy Armstrong. The event is being held at Club Fugazi, home of Beach Blanket Babylon, at 678 Green St. Tickets range from \$20/rear balcony to \$75/box seats (\$100 tickets are sold out). A limited number of tickets are also available for the cast party following the performance at nearby Washington Square Bar and Grill for an additional \$25/ticket. Complimentary wine and desserts served. 7:30pm. Tix: Beach Blanket Babylon Box Office, 415-421-4222.

Q-Sangha @ MCC-SF

Interfaith Buddhist Celebration of Spring. "Buddha of Compassion, Christ of Love: Interfaith Dialogue for World Peace." Music, Candle Prayers, Meditation, Message, Sacred Dance of Peace, Buddhist Blessings, etc. Free and open to all (\$10-\$20 suggested donation). 7-9pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. Info: www.QSangha.org

Left Coast Chamber Ensemble @ The Green Room

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble presents "Dissonance: Mozart & Beyond, a concert featuring

Moritz Eggert's Pong, madrigals by William Byrd and others; and works by W. A. Mozart and György Ligeti. \$19 gen'l; \$14 student/senior. 8pm. The Green Room, War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-642-8054; ChamberMusicPartn.org

'New Voices'

@ Calvary Presbyterian Church

Chanticleer, the world-renowned 12-man vocal ensemble led by Music Director Joseph Jennings, teams up with the ever-innovative SF Contemporary Music Players for "New Voices," a program featuring world premieres by Pablo Ortiz and Betty Olivero along with works by Iannis Xenakis and Giacinto Scelsi. SFCMP Music Director David Milnes conducts. \$34 & \$37 reserved seats; \$25 gen'l admission; \$10 students. 8pm. Pre-concert lecture at 7:15pm. Tix: 415-392-4400; 800-407-1400; cityboxoffice.com

Tue 30

Golden Gate Men's Chorus + Harvard Glee Club @ Mission Dolores Basilica

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus (GGMC) commences its twenty-second season with an extraordinary joint performance with the renowned Harvard Glee Club, America's oldest collegiate chorus, which is touring Northern California on its annual spring tour. Both choruses celebrate musical excellence, diversity and camaraderie among their members. In this spirit the two groups have come together for this one-time only concert. \$20. 7:30pm. Mission Dolores Basilica, 370 Dolores St. (at 16th St). Tix: A Different Light Bookstore (489 Castro); at the door; or online at www.ggmc.org

'Without A Net'

@ Modern Times Bookstore

Reading & book signing with Michelle Tea, editor, and contributors to "Without a Net, The Female Experience of Growing Up Working Class" (Seal Press). With Ida Aclon, Meliza Bañales, Joy Castro, Diane di Prima, Daisy Hernandez, Silas Howard, Shana Kenney, Ricky Lee, Colleen McKee, Terry Ryand & Fran Varian. Ferocious/honest stories by poor and working class writers. Free. 7pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th). Info: 282-9246; moderntimesbookstore.com

Wed 31

'Make Art Happen or DIY Trying'

@ Spanganga Gallery
"Make art happen or DIY trying" An Independent Artist How to

Workshop Series: Putting on a show: All you need to know about event planning. Come plan your event with us. The program will have a Q&A section where you can get direct comments and suggestion for the planning of your next event. See how an event is planned from start to finish as experts walk you through the stages. From fashion shows to dance parties to plays to everything in between, come learn the how to. Speakers: Fashion Show Gurus Brynne Coertz and Ruth Snow of Runway Fashion Show. SF top underground art event planners Katy Bell, M.I. Blue, Helena Nolan (Dada Fest, Tenenaticle Sessions, WordFuck, etc.) — just to name a few. DJ Pussup is an award-winning DJ/activist & Music Editor for SF Spectrum. He has produced hundreds of events including SF's largest underground party, "Pink Saturday," with 250,000 estimated people supporting queer charities. He continues to organize/produce alternative and counter-culture events while educating on social activism issues. Moderated by Michael Vavricek (vav@soundofmind.net), a long-time test pilot of social experiments for self-awareness. \$5. 8pm. Spanganga Gallery, 3376 19th St. Info: lilycat@mindspring.com; www.lilycat.com

known for her paper replications of prized consumer goods, does drawings and paper sculptures. San Jose State grad Lee Walton (MFA from CCAC) will exhibit several video installations with his signature tongue-in-cheek style. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 77 Geary St., 2nd floor. Info: 415-627-9110; heathermarxgallery.com

'Flaming Iguanas'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Preview: Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Flaming Iguanas*, a world premiere play based on the novel by Erika Lopez, adapted & directed by John Fisher & Duca Knezevic. In *Flaming Iguanas*, the ultimate sea-to-shining-sea all-girl adventure, we follow the exploits of Tomato Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican, New Jersey girl riding her motorcycle across the country in search of good sex, and learning first hand what it takes to be bi-coastal, biracial, bisexual, and a biker. It's a story that combines all the best parts of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Easy Rider* as Tomato crosses the country in search of the meaning of life, love, and the perfect post office. By the time Tomato rolls into San Francisco, she has decided to sleep with men, decided not to sleep with men, prayed for a bisexual role model, and figured out that who she is, is whatever she makes up that day. In this unique Road Trip production, the action of the play will take place in various spaces in and around the building that is home to Theatre Rhinoceros. \$15-\$25 (pay what you wish at previews). Previews: Thu. & Fri., April 1 & 2 @ 8pm. Opening Night Sat. April 3 @ 8pm. Play runs April 1-24. Showtimes: Wed.-Sat. @ 8pm; Sun. Eves @ 7pm; Sun. Mats @ 3pm (April 10 & 18). Straight Night Out: Thurs. April 15 @ 8pm. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079; www.theherino.org

'One Shot'
@ Harvey Milk Photography Center
Bay Area Photographers Collective presents "One Shot," an exhibition of single images from each of BAPC's 31 members. 3-10pm Tue. & Thu; 11am-5pm Fri. & Sat. Show runs thru April 30. 50 Scott St. (at Duboce). Info: 415-554-9522.

'Ba-da-Bingo'

@ MCC-SF

Sold out: The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's special Game Show edition of "Ba-da-Bingo" with Guest MC Empress Donna Sachet. The popular event is always packed and sells out early. Tickets are still available for "The Great Bingo Bus Adventure Bingo 2.0" on April 17. Join the Sister Betty and Sister Dana then aboard their luxury bus as they head to the Russian River for a day of fun, sun and bingo! Depart San Francisco at noon, arriving at the Russian River with time for sunning by the pool with a margarita, canoeing, hiking or simply playing in Guerneville! At 7pm your bus ticket brings VIP admission, seating and cards at the Russian River Sisters' Bingo! \$35 plus \$2.40 processing. Info: www.badabingo.org

'Spunk!' @ Eros

"Spunk!" New at EROS, a YM4YM event with fresh music, special videos, fun guys, and future workshop. Boxes, briefs, tanks and T's. Explore and create community in a comfortable space. Q Action fundraiser on Premiere night. Discount entry for those of SPUNKage. 4 pm-Midnight, Eros, 2051 Market St. Info, 255-4921.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
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These nine men compete for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 title this Saturday night, March 27 at the El Rey Theatre (from left): Rob Wireman, Mark Diamond, Marc Watrel, Ricky Hoyt, Wil Wesley, Rick Dunsmore, Paul Salomon, Terry Houlihan and Michael Locke.

Leather everywhere

Spotlight on Los Angeles and Seattle

by Mister Marcus

Leather-wise, there's a lot going on around this country, in Canada and in Europe. For starters this coming weekend, the spotlight is on Los Angeles and Seattle. The leather folk in both cities are staging week-long leather festivals that climax on Saturday night with the Mr. Los Angeles Leather and the Mr. Washington State Leather contests.

On Sunday, in Los Angeles, it's a min-street fair in the Silverlake area. I will be there to cover the event, so you'll be the first to know the results here and on www.LaLeatherPage.com.

In Seattle, it's the annual Emerald Awards program. Scores of volunteers are scurrying about already to bring their efforts to success and two new leather titleholders. Seattle's winner will not compete at IML 2004, but like San Diego, their winner will not compete until 2005.

The following weekend, April 2-4, the action shifts to other parts of the nation. The feeder competition, the Indiana Leather Sir/boy Contest, takes place in Indianapolis, where the winner will advance to compete at the Great Lakes Regional Leather Sir/boy competition.

The next weekend, April 9-11, it's the Mr. Chicago Leather 2004 contest at the Touché Bar on the North Side. Then on the weekend of April 15-18, it's American Brotherhood Weekend in the Washington, D.C. Metro area.

Oh yes, there's a LOT more. Sashes, sashes everywhere and more coming as the International Leather Sir/boy feeder and regional contests get underway.

Pantheon of Leather Awards

Thom Dombkowski was in town last week and made an appearance at Daddy's on Thursday, March 18 to help Lenny Broberg present three Pantheon of Leather Awards to winners in San Francisco, California State Assemblyman Mark Leno, Daddy Alan Selby and Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt. A big crowd was on hand to hear the presentation and to applaud all three. Hizzoner Mark Leno was in full leather and the crowd loved it.

Most noticeably absent (and isn't he always?), the San Francisco supervisor who campaigned heavily in the leather community and hasn't been to anything his constituents do since he was elected. If a State Assemblyman can drive into The City all the way from Sacramento and His Highness the Supervisor cannot, do you detect something terribly wrong with this picture?

I can't wait to see what he does when he wants to be re-elected!

They call it "chest" power

Another huge crowd assembled at the Powerhouse last Thursday, too, for the 8th round in the *SoMa Bare Chest Calendar* marathon. Four men stepped up to the plate to face judges Glennon Sutter, Tyrone Smith, Didier Carbagnoille, Troy Anicete and Julian Marshburn. After an hour or

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 25

Round 9 of the Bare Chest Calendar contests at the Powerhouse at 2130. If you've got it, flaunt it. Be there. Get involved.

Weekend, March 26-28

Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 contest in the Southland; Mr. Washington State Leather in Seattle: both after a week-long leather festival.

Saturday, March 27

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. For invite and details: 673-0452 or www.the15association.org.

Wednesday, March 31

Golden Shower Buddies swish around in a sea of yellow at 933 Harrison. For info: 777-HEAD.

Thursday, April 1

Round 10 of the Bare Chest Calendar contests at the Powerhouse at 2130. Show your stuff!

Weekend, April 2-4

Indiana Leather Sir/boy feeder contest in Indianapolis, headed by IMs.L Tammy Nelson. I'll be judging there so you'll be the first to get the results.

Leather Leadership Conference in New Orleans. No one sent a press release to me, so you're on your own if you attend.

The Tribe MC in Detroit weekend run for \$85. Check out healergret@prodigy.net.

Friday, April 3

SF Leather Sir Tom Braddock presents "Greasy Jockstrap Contest & Motor Oil Party" at the Powerhouse, 2100 tonight to benefit HRC and GLAAD.

Weekend, April 9-11

Mr. Chicago Leather 2004 contest staged by former Mr. Chicago Chuck Windemuth and the fabulous David Boyer at the Touché leather bar in the Windy City.

Little things count

by Sweet Lips

Dick Deemer is back in town — one more trip to Puerto Vallarta under his belt, and then it's on to Fire Island for him — for his last year! He has bought a home in P.V. and will be moving there with his lovely Ramón. Ah, the gay life!

Speaking of which, Bart Dreyer and Jim Dolan are taking a week's run down the coast to Cabo — separate cabins, of course!

Two big birthdays are coming up at the end of March, so get out your glitter and make them some flashy cards! First up on March

30, it's spanking time for the popular Robbie, aka Helen Trent, and then it's T.J. Buckley's turn on the 31st. I had to promise not to print any ages, but they are both younger than I.

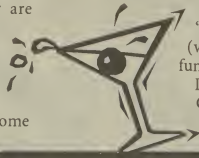
Thank you, Jim Welsh, for the great Friday at the Cinch Saloon. They certainly have some interesting customers when Ronnie is working! Meanwhile, the popular afternoon bartender at the Cinch Saloon, Jim Mangin, is leaving for a vacation soon in Europe. I hope they are ready for him! He'll be meeting lots of new

admirers wherever he travels.

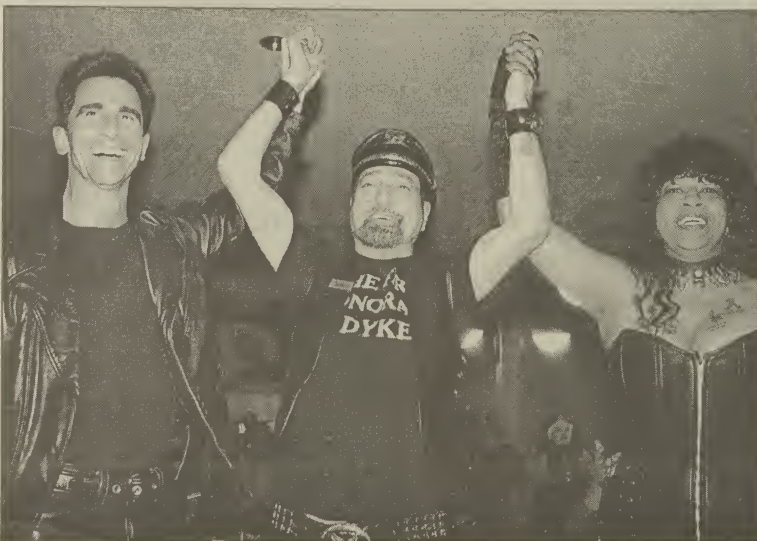
Thank you as well, Dennis Tyler, for the rides to Kaiser! You and Steve Pollack are so nice to help a "handicapped" me (wheelchairs are not fun).

I've noticed Greta Grass is getting around more often lately. You can't keep us good old gals down, Greta!

Hope to see you all in person real soon! Remember that the Easter Bunny will be hopping your way on Sunday, April 11, so drink up! ▼



Cocktail Hour



San Francisco Pantheon of Leather Award winners, from left: California State Assemblyman Mark Leno, Daddy Alan Selby, and Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt (who won two awards) last Thursday, March 28 at Daddy's Bar.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

so of ridiculous banter, the judges picked Tommy Anderson, Dave Haase and "Dodger" Allen to go on to the finals. The next contest is on tonight, Thursday, March 25 at 2130. Be there!

Updates

The Bavarian Leather 2004 contest in Munich two weekends ago yielded a hunk, 38 year-old Robert Hoepfner. He'll do well at IML from those who are keen observers of these things.

In Baltimore, the Maryland Leather Sir (Bob Davis) and the Maryland Leather boy "Boy" (Ivan) were chosen the same weekend. They advance to compete at the Mid-Atlantic Leather

competition later this year in Washington, DC.

In Seattle, Mr. Washington State Leather 2003, Mark Nunley, staged a fundraiser for the LA&M and managed to raise \$1,500 for former Seattle Leather Daddy Jeff Henness to be put in drag — for the first time ever! Well, Jeff surrendered and the crowd was pleased at the result. Jeff, you were never lovelier! ▼



Photo Credit

Full 'Eclipse'

Choreographer Cheryl Chaddick makes work about alienation and connection, conflicts and quests, and her collaborations with visual artists Ed Bell and Christopher Carter anchor Company Chaddick's *Eclipse*, an evening of dance running the next two weekends at ODC Theater in San Francisco.

Premieres are *Glances* and *Brother to Brother*, an all-male dance that depends upon aerobic partnering. Also on the program: *When, Where, Why*, a revival of a women's duet from 1996. *Eclipse* plays 8 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays, March 25-27, April 1-3. Tickets (\$19): (415) 863-9834, ticketweb.com. ▼

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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PARTING GLANCES

Troy: EROS 1-11-04

Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you...if you're interested. ☎ 711050

H.M. Haven't You Figured It Out?

E.O. and E.D.P. tied to you because they were jealous of our friendship. They wanted to separate us and they did. I miss making you cum. K. S 711444

Untangle my wand again, please...

What do baby names, Bakersfield and the Wizard of Oz have in common? ERAN! Need you to untangle my wand again...Kicking myself for not taking your card. ☎ 711446

Antonio Watergarden 3-13 S.J.

We met. You came to my room #14. It was great! Would love to see you again. Bill. ☎ 711447

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Friendship And More...

Horny Latino "Brazilian" 38, 57, 142lbs, w/nice muscular lean body. I'm seeking guy 25-40 who knows what you want. Size, race unimportant. ☎ 71101

HORNEY-DON Is Back & HOT As Ever

Hey! all you studs out there, looking to have a great time, well don't hesitate. I will make you feel so good physically and emotionally. Requirement(s) (Honesty) if you are naturally honest, well, you have a new friend and maybe more. 42 yo, shaved head hazel eye's 5'8", HOT!HOT!HOT! Leave message. ☎ 71102

Poz On Peninsula

GWM, 45 yrs old, 6'2", 205lbs. Love walks on beach, movies, drives along coast, quiet times at home, non smoker, not into "gay" scene, hope to hear from you. ☎ 71110

GJM Into Heavy, Intense j/o, d/t, c/b

worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks unimportant to both of us. ☎ 71111

Dear, Jewish white male, 40's, 6' 174#

top seeking black/latin/asian males, 20-40s, masculine, in good shape, and skinny to football build types for hot times and adventures! ☎ 71112

Top Seeks Bottom w/Facial Hair

8" cut, works magic on supple butts. Be honest, be real, for experienced ride toward lifetime of ecstasy; be poz. S 71123

Attention Huge Nippled Guys

I'm muscular, healthy, clean, 46 yrs, Wish to date on a reg basis a muscular guy w/huge protruding nipples. I guarantee my mouth & attention will satisfy you. My serious only. Thank you! S 71124

Athletic Skater Guy

39, 5'7", 156#, healthy, cute, slim, versatile, GLM legal resident: ISO slim, masc. guy GWM/GLM, hanging out buddy. Size unimportant. Small dick is nice to @ my height. Under 40 yrs, versatile. Into 69. ☎ 71122

Muscular Guy Seeks Asian

I'm caucasian, 47 yrs, healthy, work out 4 days a week. Is there a smooth, muscular Asian out there who is serious, dependable and not into playing games? If so, call me...lets meet. ☎ 71125

Lonely Transsexual

I'm the only transsexual in this state hospital. I am very lonely, looking for transsexual or gay man to write for friendship and growth. Race, age and sexual fetishes don't matter. ☎ 71143

Asian

Young looking, caring GAM, mid 50's, slim, healthy, affectionate, is looking for an older GWM for relationship. We enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 71142

Craving Affection?

Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding new friend to talk to, get to know better, and hug. Slim masculine guy, 44, seeks another slim masculine guy younger or same age, any race. ☎ 71136

The Hottest Guy In Town

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Healthy Vegan Lookn 2 Date

41 yo GWM, 55, 130, wants 2 meet a vegetarian, drug N disease free. U: 35-50, slim, in shape. Likes art & nature. ☎ 71135

I'd Love A Gay Beck

GWM, 52, 5'11", 185#, into Shakespeare (and his intellectual context), Satie, Beck, daily workouts, seeks NS younger man for LTR. Prefer 5'4"-5'8", 110#-130#, sensual, affectionate, with cute butt. ☎ 71138

Redhead

SWM, ex-navy, 5'10", 180 lbs. Mobile Home owner. ☎ 71137

Classic Cock

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ISO One Great Man

Mel GWM late 40's, top, 6'3", 175, height & weight proportionate. ISO White or Latin bottom h/w proportionate. ISO of good times & more. ☎ 71148

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71086

Hungry Blk Sub Sks Dom Top

5'10" 160 muscular slave. Seeks very dom, aggressive, verbal top. Into everything. Eager to obey. You command, I obey. I love to be verbally abused, forced, plowed, tied, spanked. ☎ 71103

Cocksucker Looking For Big

WM, 50, 5'9", hairy, heavy, gr eyes, easy going, bottom & great cocksucker that loves to swallow. Looking for big tools, pref black or latino. Looking for reg; possible LTR. ☎ 71104

Needed: Cute, Young, Smooth, Hung

Blonde. Financial reward. Give Daddy what he wants, and Daddy will give you what you want. ☎ 71105

Seeking Clean Men

I am Hispanic 49 yo, 185 lbs., ISO friendship or LTR with clean man. I am in Sonoma. ☎ 71106

Friendly GAM Seeking Fun

GAM, 27, 5'7", 140, smooth, fit, gdilking. Looking for other cute GAM/GWM under 25 for sensual fun & friendship. Must be slim, friendly & cute. ☎ 71113

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Batter Up!

39, WM, bibi, 195lb, clean cut muscular guy seeks field club or lower box date to Giants games. Lunch or dinner at Zagat-rated restaurant a plus. Call any time. ☎ 71114

Tallmen Only

With small dick - will get good and interesting treatment, please call. ☎ 71115

Hard Riding Top

Linebacker built stocky fun hung h-nrg guy 50 s/b blond ISO shaved/bald hardcore bottom to rim-n ride. Any age/race/pos, LTR for right fuck buddy. ☎ 71116

Hungry Blk Sub Sks Dom Top

5'10", 160, muscular slave. Seeks very dom, aggressive, verbal top. Into everything, eager to obey. You command, I obey. I love to be verbally abused, force fed, plowed, tied, spanked. S 71121

Smooth Asian

Seeking smooth gym toned white males to service orally and jerk off together. Let's play on a regular basis. ☎ 71126

Seeking GWM For Private Party

Serious GWM seeks tight Asian bottoms for private play party. Must be HIV-, no drugs, safe, slender. Call ASAP. ☎ 71128

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Poz Blk Freak

5'8", 177, bald, cut, into video watching, rim, suck, fist fuck, toys, jacking, 3 ways and other nasty things. ☎ 71139

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71145

Blue Collar Stud(s) Sought

Latin or Arab a plus. To explore dominance/submission with mid-40's, Anglo over educated, but appreciative guy. ☎ 71141

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Spanker Wanted For OTK

Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you. No reciprocity required. Me: 159 lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can do scenes. ☎ 71149

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Torture My Testicles

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Good Looking Bottom Blonde Blk 6'

Like being restrained under a rim seat. Like to huff on man smells & poppers, heavy into ass hole worship, love being a toilet for hairy ass men. ☎ 71117

Do You Smoke A Pipe? (Tobacco)

College jack seeks older chubby daddy (25-40) to orally satisfy while he smokes his pipe. No reciprocation wanted. Please be a true pipe smoker. ☎ 71119

Scraggly, Beard Stubbled jeans guy

seeking similar guy. Heavy intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 71120

Dirty-Minded Older Men

WM 46, 165lbs, dark hair. I'm looking for hot, raunchy & kinky times with older men, alone or in groups. Husky/heavy set a plus. Not into pain, S & M, VA, drugs or the gay scene. ☎ 71118

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Looking For Rape Fetishist

WM, 28, smooth, 5'10", 140, with GBL-masculine WM 25, Me asleep. You feel good. ☎ 71129

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Me: WM, age 56, ISO young cum (18-21 only) for 69, smoke cigars, suck/fuck. Pluses: pretty boys, tight ass, pretty lips, oohs- S 71140

Smokers

LM 48, 6', 165 lbs. I'm looking for a regular cigar, pipe or cigarette smoker for sensual times & deep kissing. Prefer men around my age or older that aren't into the gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71151

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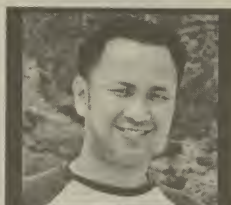
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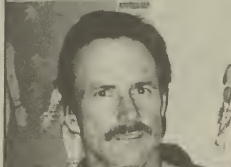
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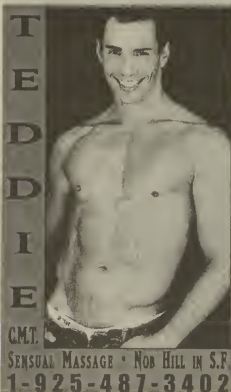
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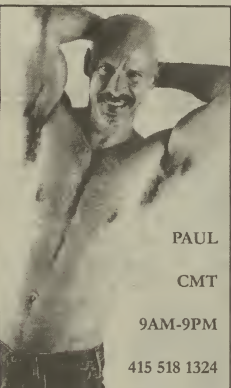
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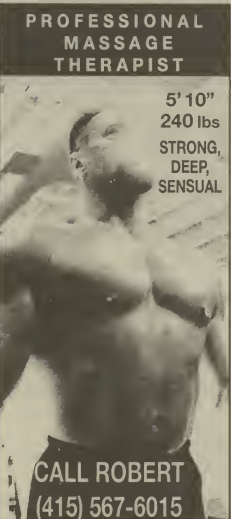
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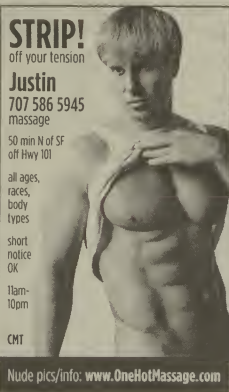
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www.gaymassage.org



5'10"
150 lbs.
Thai
Massage
www.Jacelink.com/spicy01
Deep
Tissue
and
Relaxing
Asian Wel-
come
415
307-9560



BEAR HANDS-SAN JOSE
Masc, mature, hairy full body mass
age 55/hr-in, outcall avail 408 315-
1776 www.bearhands4u.com

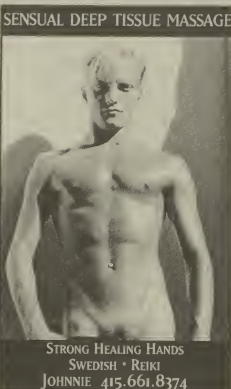
NUDE-EROTIC-RELEASE
Deluxe deep tissue, Swedish. By
nice looking, sexy, smooth chest,
lean muscular, Tattoos. (in only)
Hayes Valley. 552-1561, On Call.

Body-Electric CMT back in town
March 11-30 offers tantric, Butt-
Prostrate, colonics and MUCH more.
Details on web site, 10am-9pm
Visa/MC
510 437-1999 Paul
WWW.MASSAGEROTIC.COM

GREAT BODYWORK
NUDE, EROTIC MASSAGE BY
WELL BUILT, WELL HUNG,
MASC. GDLX/MAN.
415 NEAR CIVIC CENTER
290-1136 in/OUT



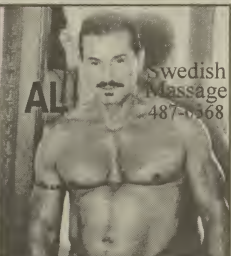
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STRONG HEALING HANDS
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Experienced Hands Provide Integrated
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Massage
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THE JOCK DOC
www.BodySpa-SF.com

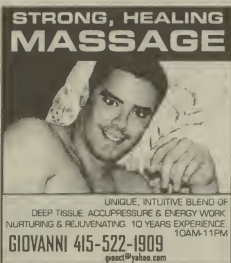
FULL BODY MASSAGE
by YG Asian \$65 out (650)302-4638

HOT MUSCL-ASIAN
Deep, strong, fullbody/CMT 408 661-7415

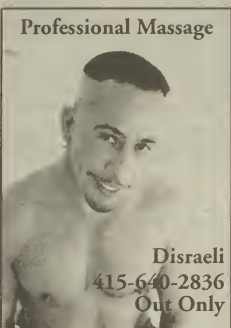
WARNING:
This ad is 100% accurate
My name is Byron. I am a passionate
sincere no attitude kind of guy with a
knack for deep tissue massage. I'm 24
yrs old with model looks. I have a well
defined body which I love having ex-
plored. 6'1", 200#, bld/gre 8x6
In/Out 24/7. For massage and more
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MASSAGE BY MUSCLED DUDE
call Dave @ 650-533-2560 \$80/hr
Strong Gifted Hands w/30yrs Exp.
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STRONG, HEALING MASSAGE
UNIQUE, INTUITIVE BLEND OF
DEEP TISSUE, ACCUPRESSURE & ENERGY WORK
NURTURING & REJUVENATING. 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE.
GIOVANNI 415-522-1909
10AM-11PM
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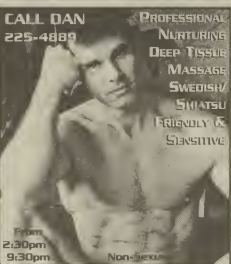
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Out Only



Relaxing Nurturing Healing
Expanded Hours
Swedish full-body
massage
Upper Noe
Valley
(415)
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PROFESSIONAL
NURTURING
DEEP TISSUE
MASSAGE
SWEDISH/
SHIATSU
FRIENDLY &
SENSITIVE
From 2:30pm
9:30pm
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TORO
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Great nude massage 290-2041/\$60

Magical Massage Mastery that
heals while it pleasures from a
CMT who knows how to electrify
the body. Oak Greg 510-547-1364

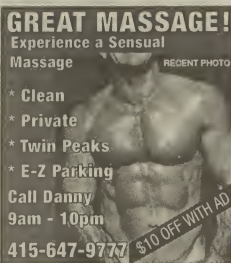
HEY SOLDIER! FLYBOY!
Traveler. Give it a rest. Table.
Oil. Strong openhearted masseur.
Castro. In \$39. Peter • 298-3309
Hot boy, 21, br/br, smooth, slim -
sensual touch. 424-1502 Out.

Full Body Erotic Rubdown
by goodlooking, well-endowed
masc. Fresh Hot Delivery David
650-938-3728

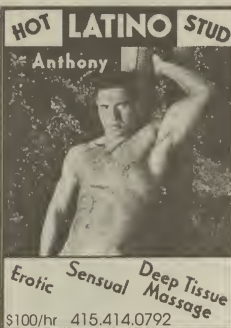
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Nude, erotic, deep tissue massage
Blue eyes, military look, hung
Strong hands, great atmosphere.
\$100 call Josh @ (415) 414-0407.

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Therapeutic Massage w/table. Private
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Very handsome, well-endowed, strong,
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Full-body therapeutic massage
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\$50/hr 9-7pm Tim 415-341-7716

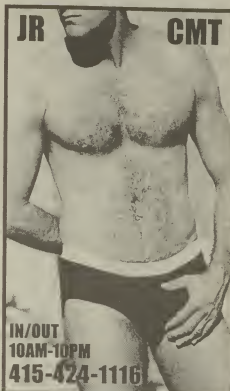
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Full body sensual massage by
Handsome Latino 27 yo, 150 lbs
5'8" masculine and friendly. Call
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5'10", 185, Handsome, complete
sensual experience, nude on table
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Massage. In calls. \$60 1 hour
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Warm & strong, CMT Pro
You'll return frequently for my
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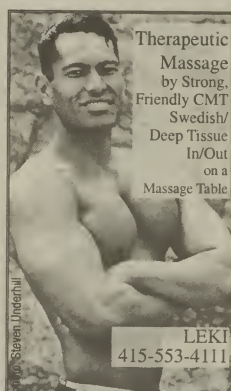
Hot swimmer*Uncut*24hr*540-0269

FULL ATTENTION
Massage: skilled, intuitive bodywork
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Also hypnosis, coaching in neo-tantra
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Dates: April 10-11 (10 am-6 pm)
Cost: \$250 b4 April 1 (\$275 after)
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Class size is limited to 15 men
so please call to reserve now.

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Massage
by Strong,
Friendly CMT
Swedish/
Deep Tissue
In/Out
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Massage Table



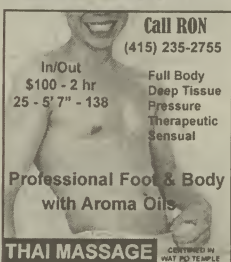
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In-\$55/hr,
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Therapeutic
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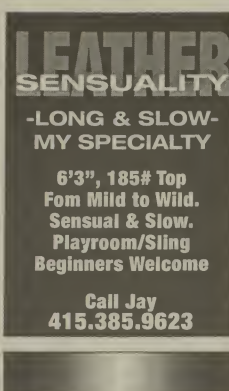
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Hunk. Fit & lean, beautiful hairy body.
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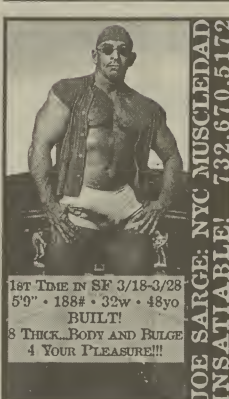
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MY SPECIALTY
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Beginners Welcome
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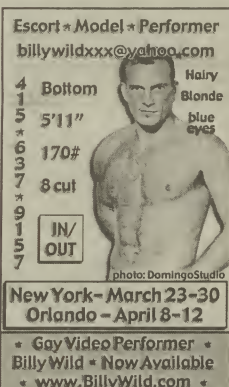


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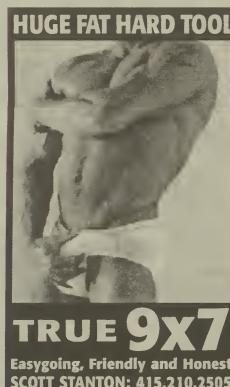


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PERSONALS

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ESCORTSTom BuStone
SF BAY AREA

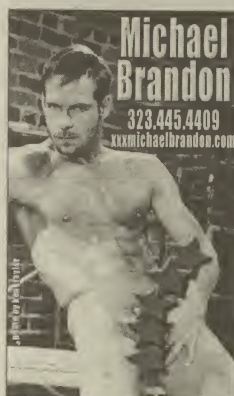
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